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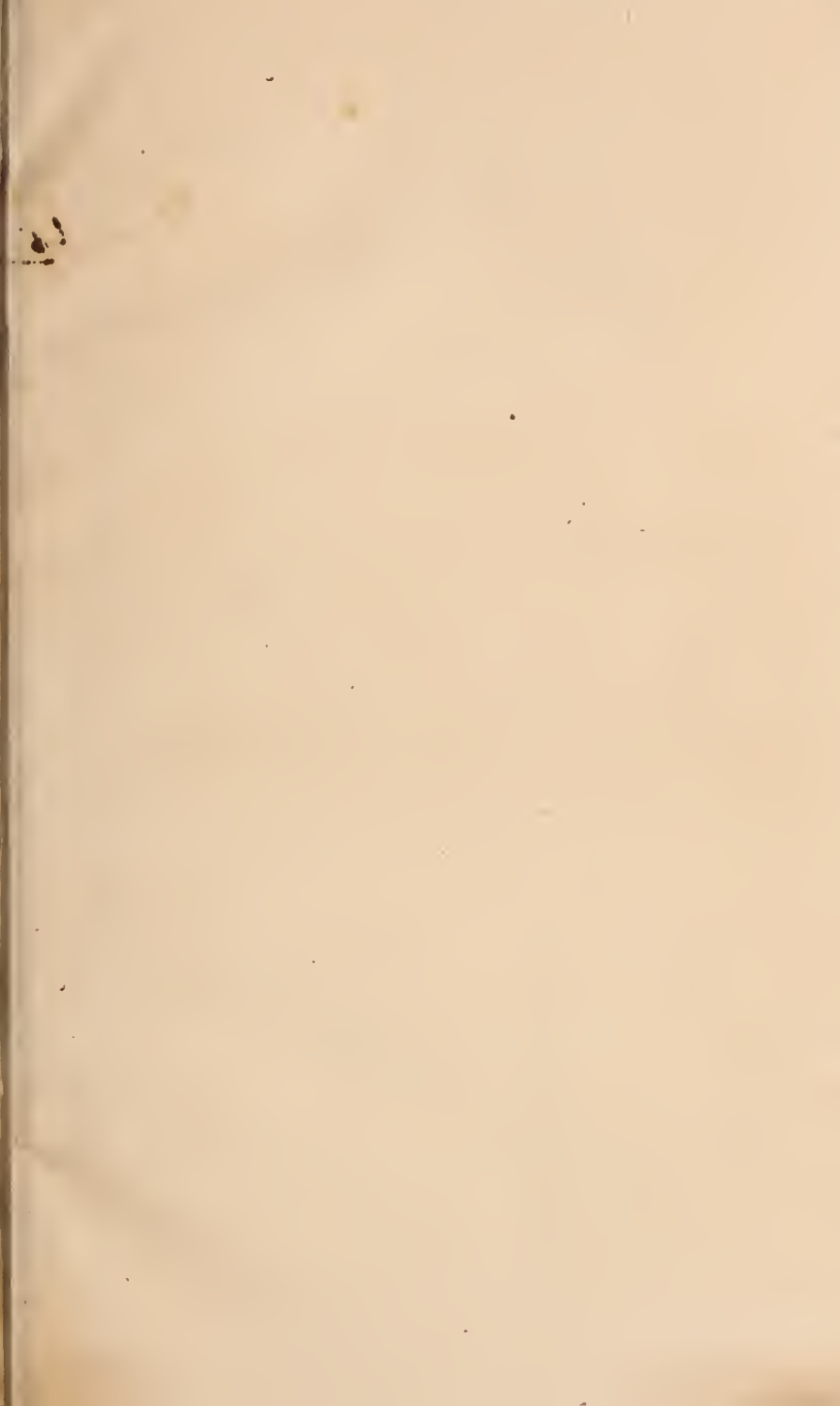
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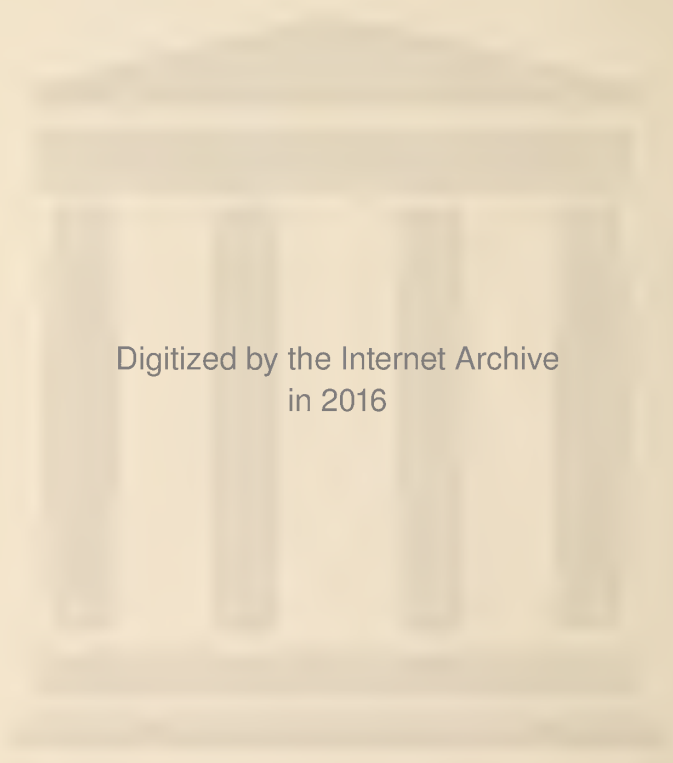
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VOL. XVI—JUNE, 1847.—No. 6.

ART. I. *Chinese currency and revenue, being a memorial from Chû-tsun to his majesty, together with a report thereon from the Board of Revenue.* Translated from the Peking Gazette, (No. 15. Táukwáng 26th y. 2d m., 18th d., and No. 38. 4th m. 5th d.) for the Repository by HERGENSIS.

CHU-TSUN, minister in waiting to fill the place of *king-táng* of the 4th rank, on his knees presents a memorial, touching the measure of transmitting and circulating copper *tsien*, by raising the value of which, relief will be afforded to the silver; to the end that there may be a hold upon the power by which revenue is produced and a proper direction of the employment of wealth: whereon he reverentially sets forth his limited views, and looks upward, hoping for the sacred glance. *

The memorialist is humbly of opinion, that it needs not wisdom to discern, that throughout the vast dominions of the empire from the present daily expenditure of silver in the market, its rise in value is daily more obvious: and as the current expenses of the realm, withal, are in all cases, both of receipt and issue, in silver, how should it be otherwise than in a state of exhaustion?—If the silver be exhausted then must there be a change, and upon the change will follow its more general diffusion; the course by which to arrive at that change is all that is intended by “the measure of transmitting and circulating copper *tsien*—to the end that there may be a hold upon the power producing revenue.

*候補四品京堂臣朱嶠跪奏爲貴錢濟銀運錢法以握利權而理財用敬陳管見仰祈聖鑒事

The monarchs of former times, when they converted the hidden materials, gathered from the mountain and the marsh into the precious commodity (*tsiuenpu*),¹ in causing the state to engross the profit thereof, and refusing the power of private coinage to the people, had this object much in view: they therefore determined that taxes should be paid in grain, and arranged that goods should be bought and sold for *tsien*. The cheapness of articles of commerce arising from the scarcity of *tsien*, which when scarce are valuable, — on their becoming so, more are coined, and their dispersion causes a depreciation of their value: The dearth of articles of commerce, proceeds from a superabundance of *tsien*, which when abundant, decline in value; on their falling, the system is changed, and they are gathered in and so brought into esteem. Whether their value be above or below par, the control of fluctuation rests with the government, and the grasp of authority is in the hand of the sovereign. At the present time, payments are made, and taxes rendered, in silver, and *tsien* are much as if they were considered useless: although the coin of the realm be in circulation, it circulates only among the people, but never returns to the government: hence it comes, that, the rich merchants and monopolists being enabled, by availing themselves of men's disabilities, and by speculating on the emergencies of the season, to hold, in their own hands; the power of making the *tsien* scarce or plentiful, and to exert a secret influence upon their rise and fall in value, — when the government would make them, at any moment, of one established price, to which it would have both the higher and lower classes conform, — there ensues probably some violence on the one side and some compulsion on the other, and all orders on this head are withstood by them, so that none are executed.

It is of importance by employing the *tsien* as they shall be found convenient, to render it easy for men to conform to the measure: to go thoroughly into the question of the change, lest they be indignant thereat: and to exercise the change as circumstances shall require to prevent their suspicions.

At present, cases of difficulty, in the salt department, are all attributed to the dearth of silver and cheapness of *tsien*, and to the fact that the salt is sold for *tsien* and not for silver: now as the proceeds of the sale of the salt at *Chánglú*, could be forwarded to the capital to meet the pay of the troops, the memorialist would request that the issue of *tsien*, for this purpose, do begin at the capital: that

1 *Tsiuen pu*, 泉布. Money was so called under the *Chou* and *Hán*.

there be established, in the east and west extremities of the city, two separate treasuries for the receipt and deposit of *tsien*, and that a *tsoshiláng* and *yúshiláng* of the Board of Revenue, as well as of the Board of Works superintend the same, and, making part-payments in *tsien*,² issue their pay to the troops at its current value: the troops, under the four standards east,³ to repair for their pay to the eastern, and those under the four standards west, to the western treasury, where it will be issued to them; in order that the trouble of carrying the *tsien* back and forward may be avoided:—that there be on no account permitted any rapacious deductions, short payments, intermixture of broken *tsien*, or the like offences; should there be any such and that they are punished on detection, who can be indignant?—that the money produced by the sale of salt at *Liáng Hwái* be forwarded to the superintendent of the Yellow river (the Two Hwái 兩淮) for the repairs of the year.

As the people, paying taxes in *tsien*, are some seven or eight tenths of the whole population of the empire, the local officers, receiving *tsien*, and being obliged to transmit silver to the treasury, are involved in incalculable trouble in making up the difference. *Wú Wan-yung*, lieutenant-governor of *Kiángsí* presented a memorial to Your Majesty, shewing “that to meet the local expenses, incurred on the responsibility of the officer, *tsien* might be received and applied; and that for those items, wherein, when a report has been made to the Board, it has to await Your Majesty’s apportionment of the revenue, silver should be collected and transmitted—the pay of the troops and ration-money of the police (he requests) may be raised according to the rate of exchange.”⁴ What he says is not devoid of discernment, but his general practice of changing the nature of the receipts has already fallen into confusion.

According to the memorialist’s very humble view of the question, seeing that the *chichau* and *chihien*, in the receipt of the revenue, universally follow the ancient rule, there is no use in enacting fresh ordinances; the silver having been heretofore transmitted as it was collected, he prays that there be no discussion thereon. But in the case of officers, now receiving taxes in *tsien* let the a-

2 *Táh fáng* 搭放. In issuing pay, part of the silver is deducted, and made good in *tsien*, the proposition here is that the chief part should be paid in *tsien*, and the balance in silver.

3 Divisions or rather brigades of the Chinese army, each under the command of a *títung*.

4 In the pay of the troops, and ration-money of the police, let the exchange be varied according to the current value (of the tacl).

mount of their receipts therein be taken into account, and a general estimate made, with relation to the district around them, of the number of troops and police in it; and having decided, according to these data, the return due upon the return of silver, which they ought to make, let them return some tenths less, and so be spared their trouble. All the *tsien*, over what they change into silver to render to the commissioner, let them forthwith, in their payments, substitute for silver, and having considered and fixed a sum, as the number of *tsien* to be exchanged for every tael, let them continue as they have begun; and the balance of weight, which they must have, if they issue whatever *tsien* they exchange, at their real value to the troops, let them as before send in to the commissioner: and let them have permission to disburse, without referring to him, their own salaries and allowances, as well as those of the officers in the same districts with themselves; the balance, let them transmit, according to the length of the journey, to one or other of the treasuries, ⁵ to be there deposited for the purpose of being issued in pay to the troops. Let the corps of division in the city, and the garrison, be paid in coin by the commissioner, and let the forces, under the chief and subordinate commands without the city, proceed, with the stamped orders for their pay, to be issued by the commissioner, to the several *táu-tái*, *chífú*, *chichau* and *chíhien*, who will pay it into their hands. As for the current value (of the tael), that of the city must be looked to as a standard, and considering it as fixed on the 10th day preceding the commencement of the collection, let official notification, that such is to be conformed to, be generally made by the commissioner.—In the case of all such salaries of civil and military officers as cannot be paid on the spot in *tsien*, let silver be issued as of old: at all stations, at which soldiers are permanently quartered, if none of the *Chau* or *Hien*, in their vicinity, receive taxes in *tsien* (copper cash), let silver be issued, as of old: and with reference to the *tsien* in the government mints, concerning which a regulation exists, shewing how they are to be given out ^{5a} in part-payment, let the same amount be given out as of old. In this manner although there be indeed a change, yet as the law continues in

5 The chests of the *táu-tái*, *chichau*, *chífú*, to which the revenue is remitted after it has been collected at the 征糧局 under the authority of the *chíhien*.

5 a These *tsien* are in charge of the 廣糧驛 in the province of Canton: the issue here spoken of is to the different offices on the 3d and 8th, 13th and 18th, and 23d and 28th of every moon; a stamped document stating the amount of the issue accompanies the money.

effect the same, how should there be such confusion as to cause discontent?—If this proposition be adopted, there will be among the people no disorder, to the soldier no loss, and to the officer ⁶ a gain. Is it said that among the people there will be no disorder? The nation at large, in disposing of their grain, and of their hemp and silk, sell both one and the other for *tsien*, while they pay the amount of their tax in silver: they have long done so; it is their ancient and constant practice: and as, heretofore, all silver received has been, as it now will be, thrown into the coffers by the *Shu li*, ⁷ there is no sudden alteration of the law or exchange of the silver. Thus is there no disorder among the people. Is it said that to the soldier there will be no loss? The soldier, on the receipt of his pay in silver being still under the necessity of changing it, before it becomes available, when the time arrives for paying the troops, the shopkeepers constantly lower the exchange; but now, as the full number, according to the market value at a previous given time, is issued to them, the *tsien* being paid into their hands in ready money, fit for use, what can equal it's convenience? Thus is there no loss to the soldier. Is it said that to the officer there will be gain? When there was a superabundance of silver the officers angled for profit in the receipt of *tsien*, whereas now that these are fallen in value, they are embarrassed by having to make good the deficits. If they expend one part more *tsien* than formerly, and transmit one part less silver, then are they by so much the less embarrassed, while if they wait until silver becomes cheap, they can repossess themselves of the surplus. Herein is there a gain to the officer.

Some may say, that, if the *tsien* be taken in by government, and there be a drain of them in the market, they fear that the population will be crying out by reason of their dearth: They do not know that all received monthly by the common soldiers and police, must come into the market; nor, that, of those received by the local officers, there yet remains the greater portion (over and above those ordered to be deposited in their treasuries) which they must convert into silver, to send up to the commissioner; and that, in consequence, these must also come into the market.

As a plan both of increasing advantage to the country, and of putting an end to the evil, a suspension of the coinage must be considered as foremost in importance. Some may observe, that although silver

6 Both in the balance of profit and the economy of trouble.

7 The *Shu-lí* in the *Ching-liáng-kiuh* (v. 5) acting under the Chichau and Chihien.

be just now scarce, there is not either any great amount of *tsien*, and ask how it will be possible to cease coining? Such do not know, that, though (lawful) *tsien* be not abundant, yet as they have been, since the state first set coinage on foot, ever and in all places, up to this day, increased by an intermixture of spurious coin,—upon comparison of their amount (viz : of all in circulation) with that of silver, their excess will be very apparent. Suppose it desirable to equalise their value, by what means, as silver and *tsien* are not in like quantities, can they be placed at par? Temporary cessation of the coinage, to place them at par, and renewal thereof, when their value shall have become equal, is the meaning of “where abundance is an object, there must be first a drawing in.” “At the same time slacken and strain (the bow).”

It may be remarked by those who speak only according to the state of things under their immediate observation, — If the object be to have a surplus of *tsien*, to supply the lack of silver, increase the number of mints, and coin more extensively: why talk of suspending the coinage? Suspension of the coinage is, in reality, the step to be taken towards increasing the number of terms,⁹ and multiplying the mints. Dullards, who exclaim, without investigation of the subject, ‘If the coinage be stopped, the *tsien* will run short, and if their coinage is to be recommenced when their want is felt, we fear that, in the hurry, it will be hard to manage,’—do not know that the residue of the copper is put by, that the apparatus and implements, and that the money to pay the workmen are put by. If advantage be taken of the right moment, and hands called in, what fear is there of inability to manage it?

There may be others who say, that the suspension of the coinage proceeds from a loss of capital, and that, in a matter of such consequence to the empire, an excess of expense should not be taken into consideration. This is the argument of those, who are accustomed to see and to hear, but who do not comprehend the affairs of their own time. Now, where there is a loss to the crown, it should be with the intention of benefiting the subject: the value of *tsien* is daily decreasing, the price of all things, day by day, rapidly rising: in the mints two *tsien* are expended upon the labor of making one, while the soldier who receives one hardly retains the use of the half one: without any gain to the people, here is a loss to the state; who may be the gainer, and who the loser, there are surely some persons competent to determine.

If it be said, that upon the coinage there is a profit, whereas if a stop be put to it there will be none, — let it be considered, whether, in the surplus of *tsien*, there be no profit; whether there be none either, in the residue of copper. The sum total of capital expended on the labor of coining in the fourteen provinces, in which there are mints, is annually upwards of 800,000 taels; taking it at 800,000, when changed into *tsien* to be issued in part-payment, and rating every tael at 1500, there must be an increase of upwards of 400,000 strings of *tsien*. The issue of silver, moreover, to be converted into *tsien*, is a transmutation of the valuable to what is of little worth, while the receipt of *tsien*, to be issued in part-payment is an ingathering of what is base and thereby raising its value.

The plan for putting them on a par differs not from this; by the one process two ends are attained; how can any one who applies his attention to schemes on behalf of the state, doubt of its success?

Some may say that the funds intended to meet the expense of the labor, in other provinces, have, they fear, been temporarily appropriated to other purposes, in which case there will be none in hand. Let such reflect, if they would continue the coinage without cessation, could they with bare hands coin a million of *tsien*? Even if the labor-funds be nearly spent, and the *tsien* obtained by exchange not many, still by changing the application of some other sum, an arrangement may be devised, and as it will be easy to repay the sum so borrowed, there will be no default.

Others may remark, that, as the workmen and police, employed in the mints, are very numerous, if deprived, in one day, of their business, their dispersion, it is to be feared, will be attended with inconvenience; — these do not know, that when the *tsien*-scheme comes into operation, and they are being issued and collected, there will be everywhere need of hands, and that there cannot but be a place for these; — Not only the coining in the other provinces, but even that in the capital may be suspended, or if not stopped, at least diminished. In short the sum of the question (here under discussion) is this, where *tsien* can be used, let use be made of them; where silver must be, let it be employed. The scheme for supplying the deficiency, and preventing the evil, is no more than this — yet as the peculiar circumstances of every province cannot be subjected to the same rule, the measures necessary must be determined upon according to the local ordinances and changes adopted, as the times shall require them; all of which depends upon the care of the *tsungtuh füyuen*, and *püchingsz*, in investigating, deliberating and making

decision. Let them neither, for the pleasure they feel in being commended, incline to precipitate haste, nor, shrinking from the trouble, find leisure by neglecting business. Then will the object be gained.

Your Majesty's minister, the memorialist, in that he is an officer in waiting, has indeed no charge which would entitle him to speak or to act; but he bears in mind that, rude and simple as he is, after having successively attained the dignity of *hánlin*, *chensz' fú*, *kotáu*, and *kiencháh táu*, he was in a few years recommended for the post of Sháu-king, that superabundantly enriched by the fulness of the Imperial bounty, he has as yet made no return even so great as a particle of dust: and when on a late occasion by reason of his offence, the Board had sentenced him to be cashiered, he was indebted to your Majesty's grace for a commutation of his sentence to loss of steps, and removal to another office; looking upward he caught a glimpse of the feeling in the sacred bosom, which still could not endure utterly to dismiss him. From an affectionate attachment to the imperial residence, he has tarried in his lowly dwelling in the city, and has observed, while bowing down, that the declining state of the finances, ¹⁰ has gone up and caused Your Majesty exceeding solicitude both by day and night. Well aware that he possesses not the source of remedy or prevention, he yet ventures to tender what he has poorly and roughly done. But if therein there be anything worthy of selection, he trusts that Your Majesty will command the members of the Board, and the high officers of the provinces, to push their inquiries, and so arrive at a decision, that authority be given to act thereon. Incompetent to detect his own rashness and obscurity, while dimming as with dust the ability residing in the Imperial Chamber; he feels unequal to the excess of his trepidation and fear.

The respectful memorial of his Majesty's servant (Chútsun minister in waiting) &c.

The following intimation in the Vermilion Pencil has been received.

"Let the members of the Supreme Council, meet with the proper Board to consider this memorial and let them report upon it. Respect this."

(Here follows their joint Report or memorial.)

The respectful memorial of his Majesty's ministers and the Board of Revenue, touching a consultation held (on the foregoing memorial) in obedience to the Imperial will.

Whereas *Chútsun*, in waiting to fill the place of *Tsung-sz'-pin-hing*,

¹⁰ Quotation from *Pwán ngin chí hí*, V. Pei. Wan &c. should be written

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and now *Nuikóh shi-tuh-hiòh-sz'* did present a memorial detailing how by raising the value of *tsien*, relief could be afforded to silver, to the end that there might be a hold upon the power of producing a revenue; and a proper direction of the employment of resources,—upon the 8th day of the 2d moon of the 26th year of *Táukwáng*, we had the honor to receive the following orders, written in vermillion:—"Let the *Kiun ki ta chin* meet with the proper Board, and consider the memorial. Respect this." In respectful accordance with which, the Inner Council, on the 20th day of the above moon copied and forwarded the Memorial to the Board of Revenue. It appears that its tenor is as follows :

“It is the memorialist’s humble opinion [see above page 274] that in the case of the *tsienpü* currency, the state, to engross the profit, therefore determined that taxes should be rendered in grain, and arranged that goods should be bought and sold for *tsien*; the cheapness of articles arising from the scarcity of *tsien*, which when scarce are valuable,—on their becoming so, more are coined, and their circulation causes a fall in their value; the dearness of articles proceeding from a superabundance of *tsien*, which when abundant decline in value—on their declining certain steps are taken; they are gathered in and so brought into esteem; whether their price be above or below par, the control of its fluctuation rests with government and the grasp of authority is in the hand of the sovereign. At the present time, payments are made and taxes rendered in silver and *tsien* are much as if they were considered of no use; although the coin of the realm be in circulation, it circulates only amongst the people, but never returns to the government; whence it comes, that the rich merchants and monopolists are enabled, by availing themselves of men’s disabilities, and by speculating on the emergencies of the season, to hold in their own hands the power of making *tsien* scarce or plentiful, and to exert a secret influence upon their rise and fall in value; and when the government would make them, at any moment, of one established price, to which it would have both officers and people conform, there being probably violent opposition on the one side, and compulsory exaction on the other, all orders on this head are prevented by them (the monopolists) from being carried into effect. It is of importance by employing the *tsien* as they shall be found convenient to render it easy for men to conform to the measure; to go thoroughly into the question of the change, lest they be indignant thereat; and to exercise the change as circumstances shall require to prevent their suspicions.

"Cases of deficiency in the salt department being at present all attributed to the dearness of silver and the cheapness of *tsien*,—to the fact, that the salt is sold for *tsien* and not for silver,—if as the officers sell it for *tsien*, so were they commanded to forward those *tsien* to the capital, would not all joyfully obey? As the proceeds of the sale of the salt at *Chánglu* could be forwarded to the capital to meet the pay of the troops, the memorialist would request that the issue of *tsien* for this purpose do begin at the capital; that there be established in the east and west extremities of the city, two separate treasuries for the receipt and deposit of the *tsien*; and that a *tsóhshiláng* and *yushiláng* of the Board of Revenue, as well as of the Board of Works superintend the same, and make issue part in *tsien*, part in silver of their pay to the troops, at its current value: that the troops under the four standards east do repair for their pay to the eastern, and those under the four standards west to the western treasury, where it will be issued to them, in order that the trouble of carrying the *tsien* back and forward may be avoided; that there be on no account permitted any rapacious deductions, short payments, intermixture of broken *tsien*, or like offences; if there be any such that they be punished as soon as detected, who can be indignant?—that the proceeds of the sale of salt at *Liáng Hwái* be forwarded to the superintendents of the Yellow river for the repairs of the year.—As from *Liáng Hwái* to the *Ho kung*,¹¹ there is water communication the whole way, these can be transmitted with comparative facility; and as *tsien* can thus be employed at the work stations both for the hire of workmen and the purchase of materials, herein lies certainly the principle of a two fold convenience. The people paying taxes in *tsien* being some seven-tenths or eight-tenths of the whole population of the empire, the local officers who, although the receipts are in *tsien*, are yet obliged to transmit silver to the treasury, are involved in incalculable trouble in making up the difference. *Wú Wanyung*, the Lt.-governor of *Kiángsi* had presented a memorial showing 'that to meet the local expenses incurred on the authority of the officer, *tsien* might be received and applied, and that in those for which, when a report has been made to the Board, it has to await the emperor's apportionment of the revenue, silver and should be collected and transmitted; the pay of the troops, and allowances of the police, he requested might be varied according to the rate of exchange: '—what he said was not devoid of discernment, but his general practice of receiving *tsien*

11 The *Ho kung tsung tuh*, is the chief officer in charge of the repairs of the river banks.

and transmitting them back and forward, has manifold increased the trouble; throughout the whole province it is impossible to obtain a *fan* or even a *li* of silver, and its resources have not failed to decay.

“According to the memorialist’s very humble view of the question, seeing that the *Chichau* and *Chihien*, in the collection of the revenue, universally follow the ancient rule, there is no use in enacting fresh ordinances; silver having been heretofore transmitted as it was collected, he prays that there be no discussion thereon. But (says he) in the case of officers now receiving taxes in *tsien* let the amount of their receipts therein be taken into account, and a general estimate made, with reference to the districts in their vicinity, of the number of troops and police in each of them, and, according to these data, let a reduction be decided on, and let them return some tenths less than due the amount, and so be spared their trouble. All the *tsien*, over and above what they change into silver to render to the commissioner, let them forthwith in their payments substitute for silver, and when they shall have considered and fixed a sum as the number of *tsien* to be exchanged for every tael, let them continue as they have begun; and the balance of weight which they must have, if they issue whatever *tsien* they exchange at their real value to the troops, let them as before send in to the commissioner; and let them have permission to disburse, without referring to him, their own salaries and allowances, as well as those of the officers in the same cities (districts) with themselves; as also the ration-money of the clerks, workmen, and police, in the *Chau* and *Hien* to which they themselves belong, and the expenses of the public sacrifices, and those of the government posting establishments; and the pay of the troops in the several garrisons in their district let them also disburse, without reference, out of the treasury-deposits. The remainder, let them, according to the length of the journey, forward to be deposited in the treasury of the *chífú*, or in that of the *táutai*, or in that of the commissioner, to be issued in pay to the troops. Let the corps of division in the city and the garrison be paid in coin by the commissioner, and let the forces, under the chief and subordinate commands without the city, present the stamped orders which are issued by the commissioner to the several *táutái*, *chífú*, *chichau* and *chihien*, who will pay the amount into their hands. As for the current value (of the tael), that of the provincial city must be looked to as a standard, and considering it as fixed on the 10th. Day, before the collection commences let

official notification, that such is to be conformed to, be generally made by the commissioner; there being a change every half-year. The rate of exchange for every tael of the pay not to exceed at the most 1700 *tsien*, or at the lowest to be less than 1200; when it falls as low as 1200, that sum to be taken as a fixed rate, and no farther change made to any lower sum. In the case of all such salaries of civil and military officers as cannot be paid on the spot in *tsien*, let silver be issued as of old; at all stations at which soldiers are permanently quartered, if none of the *Chau* or *Hien* in their vicinity receive taxes in *tsien*, let silver be issued as of old. With reference to the *tsien* in the government mints concerning which a regulation exists, shewing how they are to be given out in part-payment, let the same number be given out as of old. In this manner, although there be a change, yet as the laws continue in effect the same, how should there be any such confusion as to cause discontent?

“If this proposition be adopted, as the people dispose of their grain, and sell their hemp and silk for *tsien*, and pay their taxes in silver and have long done so, it being their ancient and constant practice; and as heretofore all silver received has been, as it will now be, thrown into the coffers by the *Shú lí*, here is no sudden alteration in the exchange, and so amongst the people no disorder. The soldier on the receipt of his pay in silver, being still under the necessity of changing it before it becomes available, when the time arrives for paying the troops, the shop keepers constantly keep down the exchange; whereas now, as the full amount, according to its value current at time previously appointed, is paid into his hands in ready money, available for use, what can equal its convenience? Thus is there no loss to the soldier. Formerly, when there was a superabundance of silver, the officers angled for gain in the receipt of *tsien*; whereas now, cash having fallen in value, officers are embarrassed by having to make good the deficits; if they expend one part more *tsien* and remit one part less silver, then are they by so much the less embarrassed; while, if they wait until silver becomes cheap, they can repossess themselves of the surplus: herein is there a gain to the officer.

“Some may say that if *tsien* are called in by government, there will be in consequence such a drain upon the market, as to cause a dearth of them: they do not know that the *tsien* received by the soldiery and the police, must return to the market; that, of those received by the local officers, the greater portion, yet remaining over and above what they deposit in the treasury, they must change into

silver to send in to the commissioner, and that these must in consequence also come into the markets. Now the evil of the present time lying not in the dearth of *tsien*, but in their overflowing excess, as there is surely very great advantage in the collection of *tsien*, so is their yet greater in the suspension of coinage; wherefore, at this season of their little worth, let there be a temporary cessation of operations in the mints, and let the funds of silver intended to pay the workmen be changed into *tsien*, and entry made of the amount actually received, the thin and small coin being rejected:—thus the spurious coinage of them becoming difficult to effect, as the government offices, for collection, receive them in great numbers, will they not gradually rise to par? Once at par the law making 1000 *tsien* of lawful coinage equal to a tael can be put in force. This is to know, that the suspension of their coinage is an adaptation of the use of *tsien*, and that their being placed at par gives government some power to detect spurious coinage. Supposing it desirable to equalize their value, by what means can they, as silver and *tsien* are not in like quantities, be placed at par? Temporary cessation of the coinage to place them at par, and a recommencement of the mintage, when the values shall have become equal, is the meaning of “where abundance is an object, there must be first retrenchment: at the same time slacken and strain (the bow)”

“It may be remarked by those who speak only according to the state of things under their immediate observation.—If the object be to have a surplus of *tsien*, to supply the lack of silver, increase the coining, let their be more *tsien*: but why talk of suspending the coinage? Suspension of the coinage is, in reality, the step to be taken towards augmenting the number of terms, and multiplying the mints. Dullards who exclaim, without investigation of the subject. ‘If the coinage be stopped, the *tsien* will run short, and if the coinage of these is to be recommenced when their want is felt, we fear that, in the hurry, it will be hard to manage’—know not that the residue of the copper is put by, that the apparatus and implements, and that the money to pay the workmen, are put by.—If advantage be taken of the right moment, and hands called in, what fear is there of inability to manage it? What is really to be feared is that coinage having been suspended in the first place, the process of coining will next fall into desuetude ¹² from an imperception of the trouble consequent there upon, and that it will be then, entirely, laid aside; how, it may be asked, can this be termed a suspension?

12 Be put out of the question.

"What is intended by "a suspension" is a slight cessation of the work of making *tsien*, but not any intermission of the several measures devised for the transport of them (or of the copper of which they are made).

"Thus although there be not one coined, yet, in the mints the sums which should remain in deposit, and those which should be issued, will none of them be short: there will be gained the present advantages of equality in the values, and of detection of forgery; and, in the time to come, the result will be an increase in the number of terms, and an augmentation of the number of mints; while there is suspension (of the coinage), yet is there none (of the remittances); once more what is there to fear?

"There may be some who say that the suspension of the coinage has for its ¹⁴ motive loss of capital, and that in matters which concern the state, an excess in the expenditure should not be taken into consideration. This is the language of those who, though accustomed to see and hear, yet do not understand the affairs of their own time. Now where there is a loss to the crown it should be with the intention of benefiting the subject; the value of the *tsien* is now daily decreasing, while the price of all things is day by day rapidly rising: in the mints two *tsien* are employed upon the labor of making one, while the soldier who receives one scarce retains the use of the half of one; without any gain to the people, here is a loss to the state: who may be the gainer and who the loser there are surely some persons competent to decide.

"Others may remark that while the coinage goes on, there is a profit upon it, whereas if a stop be put to it, there will be none; let such consider, whether in the surplus of *tsien* there be no profit, and whether there be none either in the residue of copper? The sum total of the capital expended on labor in the fourteen provinces, in which there are mints, is annually upwards of 800,000 taels; taking it at 800,090 changed into *tsien* to be issued in part-payment and rating every tael at 1500, there must then be surplusage of 400,000 strings of *tsien*. Moreover the issue of silver to be converted into *tsien* is a transmutation of the valuable to what is of little worth, while the receipt of *tsien* to be issued in part-payment is an ingathering of what is worth little, and thereby raising its value. The plan for putting them at a par differs not from this; by the one process two ends are answered. How can there be a doubt that it will succeed? Should any express a fear that the labor funds in

other provinces have been, appropriated to other purposes, and that in this case there will be none in hand; there can still be an arrangement devised by borrowing from some other fund, and the sum so borrowed being easily repaid, there will be nothing wrong in the end.

“Others may remark, that as the workmen and police in the mints are very many, if deprived in one day of the means of gaining their livelihood, their dispersion will probably be attended with inconvenience; such do not know, that when the *tsien*-scheme comes into operation, and that *tsien* are being issued and collected, there will be every where need of hands, and that there cannot but be a place for them; as they are a class of men that hold to their calling, and serve their superiors, and are not to be compared to horseboys, or common sailors; and as they support themselves by their own labors, and are sure to be on the look out for employment, there can be nothing that should not be in this. On former occasions work has been stopped, and frequently; but have we ever heard that the work-masters, artisans, or police went forth and created disturbance? From this it may be observed that, not only the coinage in the outer provinces but even that of the metropolis can be suspended; or if not suspended, at least diminished. At the commencement, let there be a diminution in the coinage, but none in the remittances (either of copper or of coin); and let the surplus of the labor-funds continue to be changed into *tsien* and issued in part-payment (to the troops &c). After the copper and lead shall have been kept in deposit three years, let a stop be put to the remittance of it, but none to the purchase; thus will the expense of its carriage be saved. The purchase of it not being suspended, the copper can be detained in *Yunnan*, workshops erected, and a coinage set on foot there, to supply the pay of that province—and let the silver-subsidy ¹⁴ of the provinces be set apart for remittance to the Metropolis, or, according as it may be found convenient, expended in the purchase of copper, for the supply of the mints when at work. As regards the copper in the capital, when it fails, let orders be given to the province of *Yunnan* to consider whether *tsien*, or copper ore had better be remitted, and to act accordingly. In such a change there cannot but exist a principle of advantage. The sum of what is discussed is this; where *tsien* can be used, let use be made of them; where silver can be, let it be employed; in short, at the places near (to the points whence they

14 *Yunnan* receives annually a certain subsidy of silver from some of the other provinces, its own resources not being sufficient to meet its public expenses, while the present laws, insisting on a certain issue of silver, remain in force. It is suggested that the provinces should send this sum to the capital.

are issued) employ *tsien*, at great distances use silver. Silver and *tsien* once equally in use, collection of both may be made alike; "as the offspring and its mother they will balance each other,"¹⁵ and there will be a means of moderating the great increase or diminution of their values. By gathering in what is worthless and making it valuable, and by scattering abroad what is high in price and so reducing its value, power of producing a revenue is in the grasp; by being able to issue or to call in, though there be a deficiency of silver there will be no lack of an available medium; the means of making level what is not so, and of preventing the evil (under consideration), does not exceed this. Still, as the circumstances of every province will not bear being subjected to the same rule, the measures necessary must be determined on, as the times shall require them; all of which depends upon the care of the *tsung tuh, fu yuen* and *pü ching sz'*, in investigating, deliberating and making decision.

Your majesty's ministers find upon looking back, that, upon the 1st day of the 2d moon of the present year, having met to consider, and having made report upon, a memorial touching "regulations for placing silver and *tsien* at par" drawn up by the censor *Liú Liáng kiu*, they had the honor to receive, with all reverence, the following expression of the Imperial Will:—

Silver and *tsien* are alike valuable, being indeed the constant medium of the expenditure; and were it really possible to devise, as the times may require, a means of preventing the fluctuation between their greater and lesser values, it would possess the two fold advantage of enriching the state and accommodating the people, as it is not meet that there should be a continual cry of embarrassment, and that no thought should be taken respecting the adoption of suitable reform, orders are hereby given to the governors-general, and lieut.-governors, each according to the peculiar circumstances of his province, to investigate minutely (these propositions), and to use every endeavor to arrive at a satisfactory decision regarding their feasibility or the reverse. As it is necessary that the measures determined on, should come into operation without giving rise to disturbance or irregularity, let not these officers lend their ears to too artful excuses of those of their suites, neither let them give way be it ever so little to their taste for leisure or their dread of trouble, and so just satisfy their responsibility with a single memorial. Respect this.

15. "As the offspring and its mother, they will balance each other."

子母相權 A figurative expression—a winged insect of the herte or cricket kind, called *tsing fū* 青蚨, if its young be taken, by any one follows them home. Let 81 cash be sucked with the blood of the mother and the rest with that of the young; and when in your purchases you employ the latter, they fly home to their mother; if the former she returns to her children—V. Pei-wan Yun-fu cap. 55 p. 77 under 母).

Dr. Morrison under 蚨 *Fū* (Sylab. Dict. 2368) says that *tsing fū* is also applied to the copper coin, termed by Europeans cash.

In respectful obedience to which, orders were sent to the *tsung tuh, fu yuen, ho kung tsung tuh*, and *yen ching kien tuh*, that one and all should, in accordance with the command, deliberate and decide; — as is upon record.

Now with reference to Chútsun's repetition (of what has already been said in *Liú's* memorial), that "receipts and issue being all in silver, *tsien* are much as if they were considered useless," and his proposal of a scheme for the circulation of *tsien*, 'that there may be a hold upon the equipoise of the revenue, reiterated in the hope of having his suggestions adopted, his grand point is this, 'that the salt revenue should be remitted, and the pay of the troops issued in *tsien*, that, in every *Chau* and *Hien*, a general order should be given to take all such sums, therein collected as have heretofore been paid in *tsien*, and apply them to the disbursement of the salaries and allowances of all officers in those *Chau* and *Hien*, and to the expenses of the public sacrifices, government posting-establishments, and pay of the troops of their garrisons: and that the surplus according to the length of the transit should be forwarded respectively to the chests ¹⁶ of the *chífú, táutái*, or *pú ching sz'* and therein deposited:—that the corps of division, and the garrison within the city should be paid by the commissioner, and that the forces in the chief and subordinate commands without the city, upon the issue to them of stamped orders by the commissioner be directed to repair to the treasury of the *chífú* or *táutái* where their pay will be given to them;—that in making good the amount of silver with *tsien*, the rate of exchange current in the city as quoted 10 days before the commencement of the collection be alone regarded as the standard, and public notification made to that effect by the commissioner; there being a change every half-year;—that a tael should not be valued at the highest at more than 1700 *tsien* nor at the lowest, at less than 1200—&c., &c.,

Your majesty's servants have with great attention prosecuted their inquiries. As in the matter of collecting duties in *tsien*, they have upon a previous occasion reported on the memorial above alluded to demonstrating clearly that both the sums remitted to the Board, and those of which it has to await Your Majesty's distribution, might continue according to the ancient law; there is no use in a fresh consideration thereof. As to the transfer of the silver, collected at *Liáng Hwái* and *Liáng Chéh*, to the *Hwáng ho*, as well as the issues and expenditure of the salt departments in every provinces, orders having

been already sent to the Superintendents, the *tsung-tuh* and *fú-yuen*, to deliberate upon the adoption of changes suited to the time, and the employment of *tsien* instead of silver in their remittances and receipts, we must wait until their replies shall have been received, and again make decision thereupon.

Again, as to what is said upon the payment by the *chíchau* and *chihien*, of the officers in the same districts with themselves, and of the expenses of the public sacrifices, and government posting establishments, seeing that, with reference to the suggestions of the above memorial, as to what sums should be retained, and what issued, orders have been sent to every officer to consider what change should be made according to the circumstances of his district; there is no need to propose farther regulations either for the receipt or issue of *tsien*; but referring to his request that the salt duties at *Cháng lú* may be, instead of in silver, collected in *tsien*, and forwarded to the metropolis, to furnish the pay of the troops, your majesty's servants find, that the returns of the *Cháng lú* salt excise are properly upwards of 500,000 taels, that besides the salt in deport, the issue of which has been, in compliance with memorial, suspended, the receipts at present in the chest actually amount to upwards of 400,000 taels; that the distance of this place from the capital, by land and water, is comparatively short; and that reports are made annually on the distribution of the above revenue: whether, therefore, it be practicable or not to remit, at the rate of 1500 *tsien* of the lawful currency to the tael, the sum total in *tsien*; and if not, how many tenths of silver, when its whole amount shall have been ascertained, it may be determined to remit; and whether it will be proper as soon as the silver shall have fallen in value, to tender silver only, as of old:—upon all these points we would request Your Majesty to signify your pleasure to the *yen-ching sz'* of *Cháng lú*, that he put himself in communication with the *tsung tuh* of *Chihli*, in order that they may with their whole mind, investigate and decide, and make answer according to the facts; and if it be indeed ascertained that the experiment can be tried with the salt revenue, then must those officers specify the year, from which it shall commence, and how many tens of thousand strings lawful cash shall be annually remitted; that farther decision be then made by the Board of Revenue and the Board of Works, touching the application of these sums of *tsien*, severally, to the disbursement of official salaries, or the expenses of public works, &c:—lastly that they comprehend in their deliberations all the imperfect propositions of others, and make clear report

thereupon ; to the final administration of this matter.—With reference to the paragraph in the memorial under consideration, which treats of the application of the salt taxes (to be sent up to the city in lawful cash instead of in silver) to the payment of the troops under the eight standards in the city only, and of the establishment of two treasuries one in the east and the other in the west, which a *tsóshiláng* and *yúshiláng* of the Board of Revenue and of the Board of Works are to be appointed to superintend, your servants very humbly submit, that, inasmuch as in the payment of the troops under the eight standards the *tsien* issued in part-payment, were formerly reckoned at 1000 to the tael, and that the tael is now valued at 1500 of the lawful currency, there will indeed be herein an inconvenient discrepancy. ¹⁷ Then as to the suggestion, that, in the other provinces, the market value in each provincial city, taken ten days before the commencement of the collection, shall be considered as the standard of exchange, of silver into *tsien*, or *tsien* into silver, and that notification be made by the Commissioner, there being a change every half-year ; and that officer do also issue orders, stamped with his seal, on the *tsien* remitted to and deposited in the treasuries of the nearest neighboring *tántái* and *chífú*, obliging the garrisons without, severally to repair thither and receive their pay ; whether, in fine, all these measures be practicable or not, without causing fresh disorders, and irregularities, the *tsungtuh* and *fiyuen* must ascertain, and thereon report to the administration of this matter ; to make manifest their care, and to show that they attach to it the importance it deserves.

Farther as to the observation made in the memorial that, the present evil lying not in the dearth but in the superabundance of *tsien* to remedy the mischief, there is nothing more efficacious than the collection of *t-ien* except it be the suspension of their mintage — and the statement as to how, when their mintage shall have been suspended, their market value may be raised to par ; how the transport of the copper may be effected, how a balance of credit obtained, how the workmen provided for : as to the suggestion also of a mintage to be carried on hereafter in *Yunnán*, with the copper, the transport of which from that province shall have been stopped, and the proposition that the amounts of the subsidy-funds should be forwarded to the Board for the public service ; — so mature a consideration of the whole question of the fluctuation of values, would

17 Between these two rates and those proposed above (1200 and 1700) by the memorialist.

seem to have embraced every thing. But the memorialist is not aware that the present dearness of silver and depreciation of *tsien* does in fact proceed from the scarcity of silver, and not from the redundancy of copper coin. If the mintage of the latter be reduced in the metropolis and suspended in the provinces at the same moment, and silver and *tsien* in consequence both run short, what are the common people to look to as available? It is ascertained that in Fuhkien there has been a suspension of the coinage for upwards of 20 years, in *Chihli* 16 years, and in both *Húpch* and *Húnán* upwards of 10 years, but the value of silver in each of these provinces has, according to the one rule, risen considerably, and has fallen in no single instance; it is evident then, that when the mints are stopped the terms decrease, and there is clear testimony that herein is no assistance to make good the deficiency of silver. If it be proposed to purchase *tsien* with the labor funds to raise the value of the former, it is replied that in *Húnán*, this plan has been for many years in operation, and has not as yet been found to answer. It is farther to be feared, that if, with the intention of bringing the lawful currency into esteem, encouragement be nevertheless given to a spurious coinage, without a semblance of advantage, mischief of doing so will be apparent.

As to the memorialist's request that the coinage, within the capital may be lessened, and that without it suspended, Your Majesty's servants beg (to represent that) it is useless to take this into consideration; but as the increase of the value of *tsien* and the consequent depreciation of silver, are indeed matters of the utmost importance at the present time, your servants have decided upon recommending that orders be given to make the experiment of accepting *tsien* in the salt duties at *Cháng lú*, and await your majesty's pleasure that they may act in obedience thereto. They have deliberated upon every proposition in the memorial sent down to the Board on a previous occasion, and are still awaiting the opinions, in reply to their questions, of the several *tsungtuh*, *fúyuen*, *ho tsungtuh*, and *yenching kientuh*; as soon as these arrive they will again consider and decide upon the several regulations (proposed) one by one, and make general communication (of those that may be approved), that these may be administered accordingly.

The particulars of their consultation, Your Majesty's servants, as in duty bound transcribe, and present to your majesty; prostrate they implore your majesty to instruct them and declare wherein they are correct or the reverse; they farther at the same time signify

that this document is from the original draft of the opinions of the Board of Revenue. A respectful memorial.

The imperial pleasure has been received, to the following effect ;
" Be it according to the decision of the Board. — Respect this."

ART. II Memorial regarding the Currency and Revenue by Ng6h-shun-ngan as the subject was brought under his notice by order from the Board of Revenue.

NGOH-SHUN-NGAN, lieut.-governor of Honán, upon his knees presents his memorial, for that having in obedience to the Imperial Will considered, and decided (respecting the propositions contained in the memorial forwarded to him), he would report his opinion thereon ; and looking upward he awaits the sacred glance.

Whereas your majesty's servant did receive a dispatch from the Board of Revenue, informing him that the Board had been honored with Your Majesty's commands (in the following words): " Muh-chángáh and others have reported that in obedience to Our Will, they have assembled to consider the memorial of the censor *Liú Liángkiu*, wherein are detailed regulations for keeping silver and *tsien* at par. Silver and *tsien* are alike valuable, being indeed the constant medium of the expenditure ; and were it really possible to devise as the times may require, a means of preventing the fluctuation between their greater and lesser values, it would possess the two-fold advantage of enriching the state and accommodating the people. As it is not meet that there should be a continual cry of embarrassment, and that no thought should be taken respecting the adoption of suitable reform, orders are hereby given to the governors general, and lieut.-governors, each according to the peculiar circumstances of his province, to investigate minutely (these propositions), and to use endeavors to arrive at a satisfactory decision as to their feasibility or the reverse. As it is necessary that the measures determined on, should come into operation without giving rise to disturbance or irregularity, let not these officers lend their ear to the artful excuses of those of their suites, neither let them give way, be it ever so little, to their taste for leisure or their dread of trouble, just satisfying their responsibility with a single memorial. Respect this." Upon the arrival of which together with a copy of the memorial in question, Your Ma-

jesty's servant, as directed, wrote forthwith to the *ngáncháh sz'*, and *púchíng sz'* to push their inquiries to the truth and arrive at a decision; these commissioners have since conferred with the *tuhliáng-táu* and having forwarded their opinions, Your Majesty's servant has yet farther made most minute examination thereof: Prostrate reflecting that, in the suggestion of measures, it is most important to consult the convenience of the people, that in the projection of schemes it is of the utmost consequence to be cautious in the outset: and that as for some years past, the daily rise in the value of silver, and the daily decline in that of *tsien* has not only entailed upon the officer the embarrassment of making good the deficits, but has also occasioned trouble to the people in the payment of their taxes, it is indeed a duty to devise with speed such measures for their rescue, as may more or less advantage the state in the matter of finance, and the people in their means of gaining a livelihood,—he has with reverent attention, according to the particular circumstances of every part of his province applied his whole mind to the study of this question, and to the arrangement of suitable reforms: he dare not surely shrink from the difficulty; neither on the other hand would venture upon such changes as might, from their perplexity, produce disorder.

He finds that of the several *Chau* and *Hien* of the province of *Hónán*, the money taxes collected are in some paid all in silver, others paid all in *tsien*; in some the large householders are taxed in silver, and the smaller in *tsien*; in some the receipts are $\frac{6}{10}$ or $\frac{7}{10}$ in silver, and $\frac{3}{10}$ or $\frac{4}{10}$ in *tsien*: in all cases of collections in *tsien* their exchange into silver, to be remitted to the Commissioner, is calculated according to what is found to be the market value at the time. The market rate originally scarce exceeded 1000 current *tsien* to the tael, while at present a tael is valued at 2200 or 2300 *tsien*. If the revenue be collected both in silver and *tsien*, reckoned, as heretofore, according to their market value at the time, both the income and expenditure are subject to the same rule, and the officers and the people do not interfere with one another; but if, as suggested, the tael be valued at 1500 current *tsien*, which, calculation being made according to the present market price, will be at a loss of some 700 or 800 *tsien*, the people when tendering their taxes in *tsien*, at this rate, will pay short some $\frac{3}{10}$ odd per tael. The current expenses of the state have a standard; is it easy at a moment's notice to diminish the amount of its revenue? Moreover as the common people run after pelf like a wild-duck, and will be very ready to tender *tsien*, but not willing to pay in silver, there will of course follow the incon-

venience of enforcing distinction and of obliging some houses to pay *tsien* and others silver, which will cause such excess of disorder and contention, as will be the commencement of troubles.

If the sum total at which it is assessed be collected upon every house, severally, at the rate fixed by the Board of $\frac{7}{10}$ silver and $\frac{3}{10}$ *tsien*, in the case of the larger householders, where the amount is comparatively great, the distinction is still easy; but on coming to the subdivision of the *hau*, *fun*, and *li* of the small fry, the proceeding falls into confusion, and petty collectors are enabled to raise or lower their hand: though the herdsman be vigilant, it is hard to be guarded at all points, and trickery in the receipts is inevitable. These are the facts of the inconvenience of collecting the revenue in *tsien*.

In such of the *chau* and *hien* of the province of Honán as lie along the river, there being communication by boat, and in consequence a risk of wind and water, there will scarce fail to be loss and damage of *tsien*, from the unwieldiness of their bulk: in the remaining districts, where there is no water traveling, and the distance of which from the provincial city varies from 100 or 200 to 800 or 900 *li*, the transport being by land, there must be employed a number of porters, vehicles, and horses, not less than one hundred times that of those engaged in the carriage of the silver bars; and it is to be feared that disorders will ensue by the way; as to the expenses of the transport, and of feeding the carriers, they will be so overwhelmingly great, that it will be difficult out of the money in the chests of the *Chau* and *Hien* to make good the amount, and if it be proposed to make repayment, when opportunity shall occur, there will be no fund which may be so appropriated. These are the facts of the inconvenience of making remittances in *tsien*.

The amount under the head of local expenditure in the *Chau* and *Hien*, including, besides the cost of the posting establishment to be remitted as hitherto to the several offices, the items of salaries, labor-wages, and police rations, is not indeed very great; from the wages and ration money paid for the year to the porters, though each man receive but a few taels, there is still a deduction on the weight, of 6 *fun* (per man) so that their gains are not very considerable, and if these are again to be changed and issued to them in *tsien*, they will be so much the less able to provide themselves with food. At the same time under the head of monies kept and issued from the treasury by the Commissioner, to wit, the pay of the troops of the several garrisons of the province, the subsidy forwarded to *Kánsuh* for the pay of its

troops, and the annual repairs of the river, of all these the yearly estimate is upwards of 2,500,000 taels, a large sum. In giving so much per head to the troops, to find their food, the issue has hitherto been made in silver, the deduction of six *fun* upon its weight being dispensed with, from a motive of compassionate consideration for the soldier, if as suggested, the silver be changed into *tsien* and issued, the soldier will experience much inconvenience in all that pertains to his maintenance. The province of *Honán* is distant from *Kánsuh* 3000 *li*; and the fixed sum, to be forwarded thither, 400,000 taels; the transmission of *tsien* from *Cháng lí* (to the metropolis) is connected with difficulty, how much greater would be that of changing into *tsien* and remitting (the subsidy to *Kánsuh*). With reference to part-payment being made in current *tsien* (of the sums devoted) annually to the repairs of the *Hwáng ho*, the reply of Your Majesty's servant the commissioner in charge of the river, reporting the embarrassment this occasions, is already upon record. These, then, are the facts regarding the inconvenience of making payments in *tsien*.

But, (it is urged) in the case of the pay and allowances of the civil and military officers, heretofore issued by the commissioner in the proportions of $\frac{7}{10}$ silver to $\frac{3}{10}$ *tsien*, the part-payment system is surely practicable. Now, as, in the 21st year of *Táukwáng*, it was represented by memorial, that 259,900 and odd taels of the surplus funds lying in the treasury of the provincial city, taken to secure the breach caused by inundation at the *Tsiáng kung*,¹ should be repaid, in instalments, during six years, by a deduction of $\frac{2}{10}$ upon the pay and allowances of the civil and military officers of the whole province, and as it is suddenly determined, in this manner, to make part-payments in *tsien*, the *Chau* and *Hien*, which have exerted themselves on behalf of the public, will not escape pecuniary embarrassment, it is but right to wait until the deductions to meet the above sum shall have ceased, when a fresh memorial may be presented, praying that the setting apart so many tenths, to be paid in *tsien*, may be taken into consideration.

In matters that concern the regulation of the state's expenditure, were there any suitable reform that could be adopted, Your Majesty's servant, dare not surely venture to think of evading it; but to sum up the whole matter, regarding the circumstances of the province of *Honán*, as it is certainly improper to determine on light grounds, "to reset the string," it is his duty to request that the old law be as heretofore administered. The results of his delibera-

tion, as by right he should, he reverently infolds and presents in a memorial.

The Board of Revenue have been honored with the following written in vermillion: "We are informed. Respect this."

ART. III. *Obituary notices of the late Mrs. Marshman and Mrs. Morrison, both among the first missionary laborers, the one to India, the other to China.*

THE notices of Mrs. Marshman are evidently from the pen of her son, John Marshman, esq., the able, amiable, and erudite editor of the *Friend of India*,—from which we borrow them. The others are from the *Indo-Chinese Gleaner*, written we presume by its editor, the late Dr. Milne. We love to record and keep in memory the actions that adorned the lives of such persons as Mrs. Morrison and Mrs. Marshman. The notices we subjoin are indeed brief, but they are faithful and pleasing rembrancers of those whose influence lives and will long live in the eastern hemisphere.

No. 1.

It is our melancholy duty to record the death, on Friday, the 5th, inst, of Mrs. Marshman, the widow of the late Rev. Dr. Marshman, at the advanced age of eighty, after a residence of more than forty-seven years in India. She was the last remnant of that band of missionary labourers who came out in the year 1793, and established the Serampore mission, which has been the instrument, under God, of such great usefulness in this country, and to the impulse communicated by which, the extensive missionary efforts of various denominations at this Presidency, are in a great measure to be traced.

In the labors which have given the Serampore mission so distinguished a place in the recollections of the Christian public, she bore a larger share than was to have been expected from her sex. So completely has she outlived the generation of her contemporaries, that the great majority of our readers may perhaps now hear for the first time that Dr. Marshman and his colleagues, on settling at Serampore, resolved to create the funds necessary for their operations by their own labor, instead of being dependent on assistance from England. In pursuance of this plan, he opened a seminary, and his partner in life a Ladies' school, the returns from which, with some reservation for domestic and family claims, were devoted for thirty-five years to this sacred object. The establishment continued for many years to be the most popular and flourishing at this Presidency, and often yielded a clear annual income of more than 25,000 rupees.

The pecuniary contribution which the deceased was thus enabled to lay on the altar of missions, entitles her to the grateful remembrance of all who take an interest in their progress. But in addition to this token of Christian zeal and disinterestedness, she contributed in no small degree to build up the missionary cause at this station by her unremitting and affectionate labors in the families of the native converts. Of those Christian virtues, which gave so bright a lustre to her character, it is scarcely possible for the writer of this article to speak in adequate terms without appearing to transgress the bounds of modesty; and a feeling of delicacy restrains him from dwelling on that happy conjugal union which subsisted for forty-six years, with unabated confidence, and on the affectionate discharge of those maternal duties which render her memory so dear to the objects of her solicitude. Still it may be permitted us to affirm that never has any one in this town been followed to the grave with such deep and universal regret. There were few of its inhabitants who had not grown up amidst the influence of her benevolence. In every emergency, the poor and the distressed resorted to her, in the first instance, with the certainty of obtaining advice and relief. She appeared indeed to be intimately acquainted with the condition of every poor family in the settlement, of whom there were few who could not advance an hereditary claim on her kindness. Her time and her purse were at the command of every suitor, and the great object and delight of her life was to promote the welfare of others. Her deep piety, and unaffected humility, thus combined with the utmost activity of benevolence, exhibited the Christian character in its most attractive form. In connection with these virtues, if not indeed as springing from them, she exhibited the greatest sweetness of disposition, and a perpetual smile of cheerfulness.

She was blessed with the full use of her mental faculties to the very last stage of existence, and it was only within the last two months of her life that her bodily strength appeared to be seriously affected. It was then that she began to realize the approach of that change for which she had long been prepared. It was then that the Christian hope of immortality, through the merits of the Redeemer's sacrifice, not only sustained her mind, but enabled her to exult in the prospect of the dissolution of her mortal frame, which would unite her spirit with those who had shared in her earthly labours and preceded her to the haven of rest. While lying on her couch, and expecting her immediate departure, she repeated without hesitation, or omission, six stanzas of a sublime ode, descriptive of the triumphant feelings of the soul on the verge of eternity, which she had treasured up in her memory sixty-two years before. Thus was she enabled to close a life of extraordinary duration, activity and usefulness by bearing her dying testimony to the value of Christian truth and the vitality of the Christian's hope. (*The Friend of India*, March 11th 1847.)

No. 2.

For the information of the friends of Christian missionaries, we have to announce, with sincere regret, the death of Mrs. Morrison, wife of Dr. Morrison, in China. By the China fleet of 1820, Mrs. Morrison after having been upwards of five years in England for her health, returned with her two children to her husband, apparently quite recovered; and from that time, till the last day of her life, enjoyed a remarkably good state of health. The anticipa-

ted hour being come, in which she hoped to be the joyful mother of a living child, she was suddenly, on June the 10th, 1812, attacked with cholera morbus, which, after occasioning much suffering, terminated her mortal existence in the short space of fourteen hours: and she carried with her to the grave her hopes for child. Alas! how awful the effects of human apostasy from God, even where there is every reason to hope, that in the individual case, faith and repentance have removed the curse of the law, which affects the immortal spirit!

Mrs. Morrison was the daughter of John Morton, esq, who was surgeon of the Royal Irish Artillery, and of Rebecca Smyth, a branch of the family of Arthur Smyth, archbishop of Dublin; at which place Mrs. Morrison was born on the 24th of October, 1791.

Although Mrs. Morrison's death was sudden, it was not unanticipated, nor unprepared for. Happily, during the last years of her life, the Bible was her delight; and, notwithstanding a delicate nervous constitution, her mind possessed much Christian fortitude; arising from a firm belief of the blessed gospel of God our Saviour. Early on Sunday, about twelve hours before her death, she already began to apprehend that she could not recover; and having ascertained from her husband, that danger was feared by the medical gentlemen who attended her, she meekly raised her eyes to heaven, and looked silent resignation.

It will be satisfactory to the friends of the deceased to know, that in a foreign country, there was no want of medical aid, nor of the sympathy of friends, to relieve and soothe, as much as frail man is able to do, a dying fellow-creature's last sufferings. Mr. Livingstone, one of the surgeons of the English factory, remained constantly with her during the last twelve hours of her life; he called in also the senior surgeon's (Mr. Pearson) aid, in an early part of the day; and Mrs. Livingstone, with true sensibility, attended the couch of her dying friend; and forsook it not till pale cold death extinguished all further hope.

The Chinese having refused a place of burial where it was desired, and where an infant of Mrs. Morrison's was before interred; and those Christians who inhabit Macao, not allowing other Christians any place of interment but within the limits of the Fosse, outside the city wall; the Managing Committee of the English factory in China, with a humane and liberal feeling assisted by some worthy Portuguese gentlemen, to overcome legal impediments, purchased a piece of ground, to be a Cemetery for the English, and we doubt not for other Protestant Christians, who in future choose to avail themselves of it. This arrangement enabled Dr. Morrison to lay the remains of his lamented wife in a place decently appropriated to sepulture.

Mrs. Morrison, notwithstanding a delicate constitution, which was frequently the subject of nervous affections, was a woman of a superior understanding and metaphysical turn of thought. She possessed, in a very high degree, that open generosity of soul which endures not the sight of poverty or misery, without some instant effort to remove it. The ardor of her piety seems to have greatly augmented during the last years of her life; and though the suddenness of her departure from time prevented her from saying much on the subject of religion, yet her daily uniform piety, and Christian conduct, afford

the surest evidences that her heart was "right with God"—and that she is now beyond the reach of affliction and sin. Mrs. Morrison buried one child a number of years since—carried another to the grave with her—and left a son and daughter behind, to mourn their irreparable loss.—Such are the doings of "Him who giveth not account of any of his matters."

Death is an every-day's occurrence, and it is appointed to all men once to die; still when it comes home to our own families, and our own bosoms, how awful and afflicting! and in some cases, of which this is one, it is attended with unusually heart-rending circumstances. We can say nothing so useful as to reiterate to our readers the admonition of the Divine Saviour—"BE YE ALSO READY; for, in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of Man cometh."

AT. IV. *A Representation of the Elders and Gentry of Honán to the British Consul at Canton, May 20th 1847.*

EARLY on the morning of 20th, a handbill was circulated by the Chinese, giving notice of certain doings on Honán, and intimating that meetings were to be held on that and the two following days, to adopt regulations to meet the exigencies of the case.—Shortly after this, a previous rumor was confirmed, that a deputation of the elders of Honán would be at the Hall of the Hong Merchants at 10 o'clock, A. M., to present a letter to H. B. M.'s Consul. The deputation, consisting only of aged men, several tens in number, dressed in their best robes, reached the new landing-place at the foot of Old China Street and proceeded to the Hall (or Consoo). In the meantime the new boat-house, contiguous to the landing-place, was set on fire—we know not by whom or how. An uproar ensued; but the fire was soon extinguished, and the crowds of vagrants quickly dispersed, by guards from the British Consulate. In the evening the following Notice and Letter, in Chinese were sent to the U. S. A. Consul, and yesterday morning were put into our hands, with permission to give them publicity.

PUBLIC NOTICE FROM THE FORTY-EIGHT VILLAGES OF HONAN.

We are humbly of opinion, that it is the business of worthy men to arrange difficulties and dissipate troubles of others, and that it is the pleasure of the humane to stop disorders and promote peace between man and man.

Now the English wishing forcibly to rent ground in Honán, on which to build houses, the land-holders being unwilling to rent it;—abruptly, on the

15th sent forth their officers to *Chau-tau-tsui*, to measure the ground and stake off its boundaries; therefore we, the gentry and elders, being compelled by this their conduct, assembled, on the 17th, from all the forty-eight villages, to the number of several thousands, (and resolved) to proceed to the Hall of the Hong Merchants, and present to H. B. M.'s consul Mr. Macgregor, a letter, plainly representing to him our views of the *feelings, principles, benefits, and injuries* now involved, hoping he would at once stop this procedurc.

Having made a copy of the original letter, we now present it to you for inspection, hoping that (the officers and gentlemen of) your respective countries will discriminate between the good and the bad, the right and the wrong, and as impartial spectators advise a step to these proceedings, so as to avoid trouble and strife, (lest otherwise) it being difficult to distinguish between the good and the bad, the merchants and people of your countries should be involved, and so that you may not say the scholars and people of China do not understand propriety and justice, and did not give you timely notice. If you can meet our wishes, all the inhabitants of Honán will feel greatly obliged, and the whole province will be most happy.

A copy of the letter presented to the British consul at Canton (May 20th 1847 and its reception declined).

To the English consul at Canton the following letter is very respectfully presented, by the gentry and elders of Honán.

We are humbly of opinion, that in projecting an enterprise regard should be had to the feelings of men, and that the same should be carried forward in conformity to the principles of heaven; and still more is it requisite to estimate the due importance of the benefits and injuries which may result from either its success or failure.

For more than two centuries the intercourse between our native merchants and those of your country has been mutually beneficial, and both the Chinese and the foreigners have been free from those animosities which spring from disrespect and deception. The mercantile people of your country, also, have always hitherto maintained such good faith and strict justice, that thousands of millions of property could be contracted for by one word, and a contract once made was never broken. They never failed to keep their engagements, and never disregarded their promises. Hence it was that our Chinese merchants joyfully engaged in commerce with them, and hence for a long period there was mutual tranquillity.

But since the hostilities of 1841, it has been impossible for many goods to go into circulation. Merchants also have suffered damage; and in Canton many have lost their business, and even the merchandise of your country has yielded no profit. Moreover banditti seized on those troubles and disorders, as a fitting occasion for carrying on their machinations; and base people improved the opportunity for setting fires and committing robberies; so that even your merchants suffered thereby. The traces of these practices are so open to view that they are seen and known by all nations. And now

it behooves us all alike to lay aside every ill feeling, and firmly keep the treaties of peace, in order to recover and repair former losses, and together enjoy universal tranquillity.

Very recently we have heard that your nation desires forcibly to rent ground in Honán, on which to build houses. In a matter of this kind we had supposed that the feelings and wishes of both parties were to be consulted; and that, as your country hitherto had always laid great stress on good faith and strict justice, you assuredly would not forcibly take and compel the people to rent the ground. But now we see that the prefect and magistrate have repeatedly summoned the landlords, and strongly insisted on their coming to an agreement regarding the price. Moreover, on the 14th instant, unexpectedly there came, from the commissioner, governor Davis, an officer to measure the ground at *Chau tau tsui* in Honán, and by setting up flags to mark off its boundaries. At these proceedings the scholars and people of all of our villages were greatly surprised; and on the 17th, being assembled in the college of *Shwáng chái* for consultation, it was declared expedient first plainly to set forth the case—showing what would be right and proper and the reverse, lest your people, after getting involved in quarrel, should reproach us as the authors of the troubles and calamities.

Accordingly, we will take up in order and carefully lay before you, the consul, the feelings and principles which are not to be deemed admissible, together with the advantages and injuries which are involved in this case.

First we will speak of the feelings of the people, (the present owners of the land) touching the putting upon them difficulties which they are unable to bear.

The usages of Honan are not to be compared with those of the Thirteen Factories. Nor are the local circumstances of Honán like those of Shánghái. For many years foreigners have resided at the Thirteen Factories, and from long intercourse the usages have become thoroughly settled. If commands are now given to build foreign houses (on Honán) it must give rise to alarm, wonder, suspicion and hatred, so that neither party can remain quietly at rest. Shánghái is a port newly opened, where houses had never been erected for foreign commerce; and moreover the unoccupied ground there, along the river, is spacious; and therefore, such are the circumstances of the place, that it was easy to select a site for rental. But as it regards Canton, you have near the city the Foreign Factories, and not far distant Hong-kong; for residences you have the large new houses of the Company, and for storing goods the warehouses at present rented of the hong merchants. And why, therefore, covet and seek to get more, making an extravagant outlay for no useful purpose? Furthermore, the ground in Honán is worth its extent in gold, and is all the hard-earned property of the people—its fields, fishponds, ware-houses, shops, and residences—of which some is employed as tillage ground for the support of families, and some is occupied for commercial purposes with a view to profit. And what is of the highest consideration, orphans and widows are dependent on a small interest there for their entire support; or a large clan, with a small income, has there

established its heritage to perpetuate its ancestral sacrifices. Now it is impossible for whole clans to assemble and remove to another place. It is impossible for them to abandon their estates and seek a livelihood elsewhere. On a morning forcibly and violently to be despoiled of their property, and homeless to be sent adrift without any place to seek a living,—how can human feelings endure these things? Always hitherto the people of your country have deemed it their duty to heal the sick and succor the poor: how then can they now tolerate these things?

Secondly we will speak of the case as touching the good faith of treaties which is not to be violated.

Now well have we heard it said, “without good faith there can be no prosperity, and the violation of treaties (or written engagements) is an ill omen.” On a former occasion our authorities made known to us that among the articles of the Treaties of Peace was the following: “The merchants and people of all nations are permitted to rent ground on which they may build residences and warehouses; but the local authorities in concert with the consuls shall select the sites having due regard to the feelings of the people; and the people of all nations are permitted with the Chinese to fix the rent on terms of equity, the one party not demanding an exorbitant price, nor the other unreasonably insisting on having particular sites.”

Now with respect to ground in Honán, if you say, “Due regard is to be had to the feelings of the people,” then they will unanimously declare, “We are not willing to rent.” If you say, “The rent is to be fixed on principles of equality,” then, inasmuch as no one is willing to rent and name a price, how can there be the “demanding of an exorbitant price?”

As to relying upon the power of the governor-general and governor, and depending upon the strength of the prefect and magistrate, to coerce and constrain, this is nothing more nor less than (saying), *rent we must*. And if without waiting to consult with and gain the consent of the proprietors, you at once send officers to measure off the ground,—if this is not “unreasonably insisting on particular sites,” then what is it?

If you think to reverse and disregard the stipulations and engagements of the so called treaties of perpetual peace, we would like to ask, What is the use of writing, and what the object of framing such treaties? When we, the people and scholars (of China) enter into any written contracts, we expect them long to be preserved inviolable. How then can the minister, a commissioner of your most illustrious British empire, consent to turn his back upon the Treaty of Peace ratified by the autographs of the sovereigns of the two high contracting powers?

Thirdly. It is only for the purpose of making their fortunes, that the people of your country have ploughed the broad seas, coming to Canton. Now the success of your merchants here depends on a commercial intercourse (which in order to be sustained must be) profitable to our people. If then, while wishing to maintain this commercial intercourse, you thwart the wishes of the people, so as to alienate their minds, how can you gain your

commercial purposes? Men must be allowed to dwell in peace before they will with pleasure engage in business; and they must keep good faith before commerce can be extensive and successful. If now you do not in good faith keep the treaty, but depending on coercive power despoil the people of their property and their lands, our merchants thus harassed and made suspicious will not dare to entrust to you their goods; and becoming the butt of ridicule for all the world, none will consent to hold intercourse with you. And where there is spoliation, there must be strife, and where strife is there must be fighting. Merchants will not come forward in times of strife and fighting, but flee from such disorders; useful commerce cease, and goods find no market. Look and observe how of late years the trade has daily diminished. This is what all men can see. Those who to enrich themselves will despoil others of their just gains, in the end must not only fail to realize the least profit, but must also lose the great profits they may have once enjoyed. This it requires no wisdom to discern.

Again, *fourthly*, they will not only lose the profits they once enjoyed, but they will be exposed to injuries more than can be described. For (as the proverb saith), "It is hard to withstand an angry multitude; and it is hard to effect one's private wishes" (when they run counter to the public). In the forty-eight villages on Honán, there are tens of thousands of families, among which there are some worthy and some base, some strong and some weak; and all these, being already unwilling to abandon their land, will if excited to rage become like a defended city. Suppose, then, that you take their land by force and build ware-houses thereon. Your merchants must bring their families, and be constantly coming and going thither and will store up there a variety of goods. Under these circumstances, we cannot but fear that, in going out and coming in, they will be attacked with stones and brickbats; and that their goods will often be exposed to fires. Will it be possible for them always to keep up a watch and guard, and be readily prepared for every emergency? This would be like walking on thorns, and even their nearest neighbors would become their most deadly enemies. Thus expensive establishments, requiring tens of thousands for their erection, will be ruined by a few tens or a hundred of idle vagrants. How could the people of your country joyfully hold in possession these magazines of collected wrath, and give rise to such numerous and complicated evils? It does not require any wisdom to see that this matter is most clearly the hinge of weal and woe, and that from it must result consequences of great good or great evil.

We hope that you, the consul, will carefully consider the case, and determine the proper expedients. Having been born and bred in Honán, we have seen with our own eyes the agitated and disturbed state of popular feeling; and fearing it would lead to the most disastrous changes, we could not but assemble the people for deliberation. We now therefore, having taken up these four points,—the feelings, the principles, the advantages, and the injuries involved—first lay them in a clear and perspicuous manner

before you, begging that you will transmit them to the commissioner (governor Davis) for his due consideration; so that we may for ever keep the treaties of peace, and avoid mutual injury, to the destruction of both parties, and it be said (when trouble comes) that we did not give timely notice.

Also we propose to take this case and present it to the consuls and merchants of the other nations, requesting those eminent and worthy gentlemen to discriminate between the good and the bad and distinguish what is right from what is wrong, that it may not be said that the scholars and people of the celestial dynasty are ignorant of propriety and justice. Then, hereafter, should serious trouble arise, so as to involve them, it may be known with whom they originated, and on whom their guilt must rest.

If you do not condescend to regard our humble suggestions and cannot do us the favor of receiving our plain words, but relying on your power insist on having the said ground, we are humbly of opinion that the hatred must daily increase and the calamities continually become more and more serious, so that those who esteem their native soil and their own family possessions as their own lives, will contend for them unto death. For on the former occasion, when recourse was had to arms, it rested with the government to stir up hatred against you, while the people only looked on as spectators, their feelings of indignation not being aroused. But the occasion of the present quarrel is an outrage against the people, and hence their public wrath is excited and with great unanimity, wrath which we the gentry and elders cannot allay nor their excellencies our high officers repress.

This is a faithful and true statement of the circumstances of the case, without falsehood or exaggeration—as all the people of the country well know. We have presumed therefore to open to you our whole mind, and have spread before you our secret thoughts, hoping that you will carefully examine them and favor us with a reply. This is what we especially desire.

To the above we subjoin the following petition and the reply—as given in the China Mail—with some remarks from the same source, the resolutions passed by the British community in Canton, and the despatch from the governor of Hongkong.

PETITION FROM HONAN.

Pwan-shaow-kwang, Pwan-sz'-ching, Pwan-ching-chang, Pwan-szee, Pwan-ching-le, and Pwan-sz'yang, the sons and grandsons of the former hong merchant in the Tung-wan Firm, with all their kindred, respectfully petition the Great Minister and plenipotentiary of Great Britain.

Our ancestor established during the reign of Keenlung (1736-96) the firm of Tung-wan, and lived for a long while on very good terms with the members of the British Factory, and was under the highest obligation for the great and undivided kindness shown by them towards him, in all his commercial transactions. With the property accumulated, he bought some ground at Honán, in front of an ancestral temple. From the proceeds of this the sacrifices to the manes of his ancestors were to be paid, and the various widowers, widows, and orphans provided with the necessities of life.

For several tens of years they have thus lived on the bounty, which was owing to your honourable nation, and derived their subsistence from those lands.

We were informed by a proclamation of the Great Minister and Plenipotentiary, that there was a wish of taking some ground on Honán, especially that which was close to the river side, to erect buildings on it. Yesterday we likewise saw several individuals of your honorable nation coming to the ground before the ancestral temple at Honán, to survey that patch.

The houses on both sides of our ancestral temple are the habitations of men and women. To the left is a sandy ground which has recently been filled up, and originally constituted fields. At the increase of the population however, and the difficulty of renting houses, it was resolved to divide this parcel of ground, to fill it up, for which each had to contribute money, and then to erect houses. The ponds and cultivated spots furnish the expenses for the sacrifices to the ancestors, and the support of widowers, widows, and orphans. If these widows and orphans were even well paid (for their property,) it would be difficult for them to go elsewhere to obtain a livelihood, whilst nothing remains to them, but to cultivate the fields in person, that are before the ancestral temple, and thus maintain themselves.

We are aware that the Plenipotentiary and Great Minister issued a proclamation ordering the inhabitants quietly to go on with their respective trades. This sufficiently convinces that you are actuated by love and benevolence, and your extreme kindness influences the people and causes every one to remain quiet in the enjoyment of his property and thus have a never-failing support.

We have now heard some confused rumours, that the land on the premises before the ancestral temple, as well as the recently reclaimed sandy ground, are to be bought. Still we ought to remark that this place extends far into inhabited villages, and is not in immediate connection with the river. If this spot is really wanted, all our kindred will be deprived of their abodes. This would also not be in accordance with the previous proclamation to the people, ordering them quietly to go on with their respective trades, nor would it answer our constant expectations that (the purchase) could not take place. Our families in the various houses on hearing of it were exceedingly terrified, and induced to address this petition to your excellency, humbly hoping that you will show us extraordinary benevolence and kindness, and grant us the favour of not losing the resources for defraying the sacrifices of our ancestors, and for providing the necessaries of life for several tens of poor orphans and widows, on which they depend, and we shall ever feel grateful for your great benevolence.

Whilst presenting this at the Tribunal of the British Plenipotentiary and Great Minister, we trust the prayer will be granted.

The sons and grandsons of the late Tung-wan firm and all their kindred respectfully thus petition.

Tankwang. 27th year, 4th month (May 1847.)

(True Translation,)

CHARLES GUTZLAFF,

Chinese Secretary.

REPLY TO THE PETITION FROM HONAN.

Sir John Davis, Her Britannic Majesty's Plenipotentiary, gives this reply to the Elders and Kindred of the Pwan family in the locality of Honán.

It is plain from your statement that all the late ferment has arisen entirely from malicious persons spreading false reports, and from mutual ignorance of each other's meaning.

Whatever lands or houses are rented in China by the English, must be by a nicable agreement with the owners, and according to the laws of China. This has been invariably done at Shínghái and the other Ports, and also at Canton from the first—why should there now be any change? I will take care that no Englishman shall attempt to take an inch of your land by force; and if families wish to remain on their paternal possessions, they must not be molested: still less is there any desire to violate ancestral temples.

But both at Honán and along the other shores of the great river of Canton there must be certainly vacant spaces adjoining the water which the owners would wish to receive a rent for, because land built upon gives a better rent than if laying unoccupied. The numbers of the foreigners have increased with their trade, and two hundred of course cannot find room where one hundred were accommodated. The Great Emperor of your honourable nation has agreed by treaty to let them make bargains with Chinese proprietors for lands and houses, and the people of Canton should not combine to oppose the wishes of their own sovereign.

Some of the English merchants object to the Honán locality—others have already for some time rented warehouses there by the river-side. Why should you object to their renting more warehouses, if the villages and families are not disturbed? You ought to consult together, and propose some place to the Mandarins where the English can occupy land by the river-side. The business can then be arranged, and all things proceed in tranquillity; but if there is no mutual accommodation, as at Shínghái and the other Ports, how can any good object be effected?

Besides the mistake as to taking land by force, another has arisen concerning the measurement by the surveyor. I directed the British Consul to let the surveyor act in conjunction with the Chinese officers; but the Consul, (supposing I wished the surveyor to return immediately to his business at Hongkong,) sent him to Honán without the concurrence of the Chinese officers: hence a portion of the late agitation.

Having now made known your true meaning in writing, I am able to reply to it; but without mutual communication false rumours are disseminated, you ought in all questions of doubt to impart your wishes immediately to the Consul, and then we shall understand each other.

I likewise hope you will exhort your people to behave civilly to my countrymen when they meet them. By mutual courtesy the people of the two nations will become daily more friendly to each other. In all societies there are ill-disposed persons who write anonymous papers and disseminate falsehood, and hence troubles are promoted. As you say your ancestors

derived their estates from the foreign trade, you ought immediately to publish the true circumstances, and restore mutual confidence.

The Great Minister of your honourable nation, with whom for three years I have had friendly intercourse, acting up to the wishes of his sovereign, has promised severely to punish all vagabonds who assault the English. I in my turn, am furnished with full powers to restrain disorderly British subjects, and I am determined to show no favour. There is a law adapted to the punishment of every offence.

My late visit to Canton was chiefly to procure the punishment of malicious Chinese who had illtreated British subjects. This is remarked in the reply of the Great Emperor of your honourable nation. Like the pirates on the water, these vagabonds on shore are equally the enemies of the two nations, and causes of all troubles. If the Scholars and Elders restrain them by exhortation, the Chinese authorities will not have to punish them. The first care of my government is to see that its subjects suffer no injury. In this respect, no distinction is made between high and low, rich and poor.

I thus return this declaration in reply, and request you will cause its tenor to be generally made known, in order that the people of our respective nations may live in perpetual harmony. A copy will also be sent to the Great Minister of your honourable nation.

Dated at Hongkong, 25th May, 1847.

The reply to the Honán Petition published last week, evinced an anxiety on the part of the government to avoid as far as possible doing outrage to the feelings of the people. An adequate space with convenient and safe access is what is chiefly required, and as our own countrymen had expressed much dissatisfaction with the site selected, His Excellency directed the consul to ascertain from the merchants, if they could point out a more eligible spot. A meeting of the British community in Canton was therefore summoned, and the following resolutions were come to:—

Resolutions agreed to at a Public Meeting of the British Community, held in the rooms of the Canton British Chamber of Commerce, on the 26th of May, 1847. Present 71 persons.—

1st, That an adequate space of land on Honan for the use of the British Community having been demanded by Her Majesty's Plenipotentiary, and granted by the Imperial Commissioner, in terms of the Treaty, it is the opinion of this Meeting that such demand should be at once enforced, unless a more desirable site can be obtained, and that the objections raised by the Gentry and Elders, in their letter to Her Majesty's Consul of the 20th instant, are altogether inadmissible, since the same objections apply equally to all lands in China, and would certainly be brought forward, and urged with additional force by proprietors elsewhere, if admitted to be valid in this instance.

2d, that this meeting is not at present prepared to suggest a more eligible

site than that granted at Honán, its proximity to the present Foreign Factories, its large extent of river frontage, and the open space of ground available for exercise, rendering it more suitable to our wants than any other spot in this neighbourhood; and if any other place is offered by the Chinese Authorities in its stead, this Meeting trusts that the British Community will be made acquainted with its locality, and be afforded an opportunity of communicating their sentiments regarding it, before final arrangements are made.

3d, That this Meeting considers it to be of the utmost consequence to the interests of the trade that this important question be immediately settled, as business, now brought almost entirely to a stand by the operations of the late expedition and the negotiation still pending, cannot possibly be resumed until not only the people of Canton, but all connected with its trade, are fully assured that British relations with this part of China, are placed on a more satisfactory footing.

4th, That copy of the resolutions now passed be forthwith transmitted to Her Majesty's Consul by the Chairman for the information of His Excellency Her Majesty's Plenipotentiary.

DAVID JARDINE, *Chairman.*

The following is the despatch sent to the British Consul at Canton.

Victoria, Hongkong, 29th May, 1847.

Sir,—I have to inform you, that I have received your despatch No. 95 enclosing opinions of the British merchants at Canton, as to the land at Honán.

They consider that unless a more desirable site can be obtained, their possession of the land should be "at once enforced;" but I do not understand how it can be at once enforced in any other way than by Military force, and then it must of course be retained and occupied in the same manner. This Military tenure could scarcely promote that commercial business to which they allude in their third resolution, and of which the present stagnation is partly owing to Chinese failures to the extent of some millions of Dollars, and general overtrading.

The building land to which we are entitled by Treaty, and which has never yet been gained at Canton since the Treaty was signed, a period of five years, must of course be obtained, and either Honán or some other equally eligible site or sites secured. The actual possession, however, is not (like the point of personal immunity from injury,) so imminently urgent as to sanction that mode of acquisition and tenure which is implied by *at once enforcing it*, and which, as I before observed, must be maintained by a state of things ill-calculated to promote the commercial pursuits of the Chinese and British merchants.

At the same time, Her Majesty's Government will see the necessity of asserting against the Chinese Government the Treaty rights of British subjects at Canton, in regard to the acquisition of adequate sites for dwellings and warehouses.—I have, &c.

J. F. DAVIS.

ART. V. *An Account of the visit of the French vessels, the Gloire and the Victorieuse to Cochín-china.* From the Singaporean.

THE FOLLOWING particulars relative to the recent affair in this country are from an authentic source, and may be therefore relied on. We will state the facts from the beginning.

In 1845 Rear Admiral Cecille wrote to the present King of Cochín-china, whose name is Tisu Tri, demanding the enlargement of the Rt. Rev. Dr. Le Fevre, who was known to have been imprisoned by the King's order; and at the same time exhorting him to grant freedom of conscience to those of his subjects who had embraced the Christian faith, citing the example of the emperor of China, who had lately, at the especial request of the French Ambassador, M. Lagrene, removed all restrictions upon the religious predilections of his subjects. This letter was delivered over to the prefect of the province of Quan-Nam, by the Captain of the French corvette, *L'Alcmene* but no answer was returned, although the Bishop was released.

Admiral Cecille being about to leave the China seas, his period of command having expired, was most anxious to get an answer to the letter already alluded to; but he was prevented from prolonging his stay, and therefore deputed his successor, Commodore La Pierre, to demand it. On the 10th March last the Commodore sent the corvette *Victorieuse* to Turon with a letter requesting a reply to that written by the Admiral in 1845. The Captain had strict orders not to deliver the letter to any other authority than the Prefect of Quan-Nam. The purport of it was to solicit religious toleration, and no allusion whatever was made to any missionary, not even to the Rt. Rev. Dr. Le Ferre, although supposed at the time to be still in imprisonment.

The *Victorieuse* anchored in the bay of Turon on the 18th of the same month; but the difficulty was how to deliver the letter to the Prefect himself, who positively declined coming in person to receive it, but wanted the Captain to deliver it to his inferior officers. Nothing was as yet done when the Commodore, La Pierre, reached Turon in the frigate *La Gloire*, on the 23d of the month, having left Macao on the 15th.

The Commodore, finding that nothing had been done, resolved to have recourse to intimidation, as being the only means of compell-

ing the acceptance of the letter by the Prefect. Accordingly the vessels present were put through a number of naval manœuvres, but this display produced no effect upon the minds of the Cochin-chinese. The Commodore therefore determined upon a more active course; and consequently deprived five Cochin-chinese vessels then in the harbour, and which were of European build, of their sails, so that they might not escape. This was not without effect. On the following day, the 31st March, the Prefect made his appearance, and received with politeness the Commodore and his suite. After some hesitation, he reluctantly consented to receive the letter, seeing that there was no other way of recovering the sails of the five men-of-war, and promised an answer in the course of ten or twelve days. This interval passed without any incident of importance. On the morning of the 12th April an inferior mandarin came on board the *La Gloire*, and announced that a great mandarin had arrived from the capital with an answer, and invited the Commodore to go on shore and receive it. The Commodore replied that he would not do so; having sent his letter by the second in command, he considered it but just that the great mandarin should return the courtesy, and come on board himself with the answer; at the same time he assured the messenger that the mandarin would be received with every respect. This, however, the Cochin-chinese would not consent to, nor would the Commodore accept of their invitation.

It was uncertain how things would terminate, when, on the evening of the same day, some French officers went on shore to take a walk, in the course of which they encountered a respectable looking old Cochin-chinaman, who after having ascertained that none of his countrymen were watching him, made alarming signs to the officers; not being able to comprehend his meaning, one of the officers gave him a pencil and paper that he might write what he was desirous of communicating. He then wrote four or five characters, the sense of which was "during the entertainment all the people will attack you;" for, as we have observed, the Commodore had been invited on shore to receive the letter, and himself and suite were to have been entertained by the Prefect.

On the following day, the 13th April, the Commodore had not yet had an interview with the Prefect, when perceiving that preparations for war were being carried on; as they were sending guns and ammunition on board the five vessels already named, he sent a boat to intercept the guns, &c., and in one of the boats intercepted, a letter was found contained in a small box, which was brought to the

Commodore. It had three Mandarin chops on it in different places; and the purport of the latter was the plan of a conspiracy against the French, the substance of which was as follows. "When the Captain and his officers are conferring on shore with the Prefect, should they not be found sufficiently respectful and submissive, then all the people are to fall upon their vessels, and destroy them; and thus impress the barbarous Europeans with such terror, as will prevent them from again coming to the country!" Then followed the details of the manner in which the attack was to have been prosecuted.

The Commodore caused an authentic copy of this paper to be made, and sent it to the prefect, demanding an explanation. But no satisfactory answer was returned; the Prefect merely observing that he would take good care to punish the imprudence of the parties who permitted the letter to fall into their hands!—Here was policy. What better proof did the Commodore require to convince him of the fact of the Prefect being privy to the letter in question? Had the prefect been a Chinese mandarin, he never would have committed himself so far. But the Cochinchinese are not comparable to the Celestials in diplomatic transactions; perhaps, owing to the restricted nature of their intercourse with Europeans. Things remained in this position each party preparing for war, when on the morning of the 15th, the French were reduced to the following alternatives; either to fly shamefully, permit themselves to be surrounded by the whole force of the enemy, or to begin the attack when they could do so advantageously. They of course chose the last. Consequently a fire was opened on the Cochinchinese, between the hours of 11 and 12 A. M. They were well prepared to return the compliment, which they did in a manner that exceeded the expectations of the French—but as may be anticipated this availed them nothing; for in the brief period of 70 minutes, no less than 800 balls had been discharged from the two French men-of-war. Out of the five Cochinchinese men-of-war, one was sunk, another blown up, and a third burnt during the engagement; the remaining two having hoisted a flag of truce, the French men-of-war ceased firing. They went on board, took the wounded on board their own vessels, and after humanely dressing their wounds sent them on shore! The two remaining Cochinchinese frigates were afterwards burnt. According to the accounts given by the wounded men, there were from 1300 to 1500 hands on board the Cochinchinese frigates, out of which number the few wounded men who had been taken on board

the French men-of-war, to be dressed, were all that survived the action. For although the Cochín-chinese attempted to escape on shore, yet they could not effect it; and many of them were killed by the fire from their own Ports in the attempt, as retreat was forbidden. On the part of the French one man only died of his wounds; and another was slightly wounded. So much for the Cochín-chinese knowledge of the art of gunnery. The remainder of the day was spent in viewing the burning of the Cochín-chinese vessels. Notwithstanding this, negotiations were not entered into, the Commodore being reluctant to send any one on shore with a message, lest he might be murdered. Being unwilling to remain any longer in the bay, he ordered the following to be written on a piece of paper by the Interpreter; but as the latter observed that it would be better to write it on a piece of cloth as it was to be hung up in a Pagoda in the neighborhood, the Commodore tore, in the spirit of the moment, a bit of cloth of the breast of his shirt, and desired the Interpreter to write upon it,—“The Commander of the French men-of-war, to the Envoy of the King of Cochín-china. This is a remembrance of the respect and submission of the barbarians, whom thou wantedst to exterminate! If this be not sufficient for thee, I am quite ready to give thee a better one.” This was hung up in a Pagoda on one of the small islets in the bay; after which, the two French corvettes left Turon.

The Commodore could not, of course, have pushed matters further; and, indeed, the forbearance he had all along observed towards the Cochín-chinese, and their arrogant behaviour consequent thereon, warranted the measures he adopted. Although he certainly did not effect the object of his visit, yet it will suffice to operate as a warning to the king of Cochín-china, to be somewhat more courteous in future towards Europeans; and above all it will teach him not to misconstrue the courtesy and politeness of civilized countries, into any particular regard for his potency; for no doubt, the Cochín-chinese authorities so interpreted the forbearance and reluctance of the Commodore to have recourse to ulterior measures. They have been urged upon him, through a vexatious procrastination of an answer to a simple suggestion made by the former French Naval Commander-in-chief, to the effect that the king of Cochín-china would permit religious toleration in his country, as the Emperor of China had. It was entirely optional with the king whether he gave his assent to the request or not; and it is not, of course, to be supposed, that his mere refusal to accede to the proposition would have given

rise to the serious proceedings already detailed; but he would not even vouchsafe an answer, either negatively or affirmatively.

Although the Commodore, as observed, did not effect his object—yet he has, however, by his promptitude, saved the lives of the men under his command, and ably maintained the honor of his Flag; for had he left the port without acting as he did, there is no question, but that his conduct would have led to supercession. As may be gathered from the particulars it was not to avenge the blood of the missionaries as stated by the *Straits Times*—for this they might have done long before; but the affair originated out of the arrogant and contemptuous manner, in which the Cochin-chinese authorities treated the honorable attempts made by the present and former French Naval Commander-in-chief, at friendly negotiation.

The Commodore now awaits instructions from his government; we presume, the Cochin-chinese will be revisited by their old acquaintances who, we doubt not, will be fully empowered to treat them in a more peremptory manner, as they richly merit.

ART. VI. *Statements of the number, tonnage, &c., of the merchant vessels of different nations in the port of Canton, for the year 1846. (From the China Mail, Feb. 25th, 1847.*

No. I.—A Return of the number and tonnage of merchant vessels which arrived at and departed from the port of Canton, during the year ending the 31st December, 1847, distinguishing the countries to which they belonged, viz:—

ARRIVED.			DEPARTURES.		
<i>Under what colors.</i>	<i>Number of ships.</i>	<i>Tonnage.</i>	<i>Under what colors.</i>	<i>Number of ships.</i>	<i>Tonnage.</i>
British, - - -	214	19,896	British, - - -	207	88,880
American, - - -	64	29,049	American, - - -	65	29,688
French, - - -	4	1,283	French, - - -	4	1,283
Dutch, - - -	8	2,747	Dutch, - - -	8	9,574
Belgian, - - -	1	300	Belgian, - - -	1	300
Danish, - - -	1	305	Danish, - - -	1	305
Swedish, - - -	6	1,791	Swedish, - - -	6	1,678
Hamburgh, - - -	4	10,97	Hamburgh, - - -	4	1,097
Bremen, - - -	1	152	Bremen, - - -	-	-
Prussian, - - -	1	550	Prussian, - - -	1	550
Total	304	130,170	Total	297	126,755

No. II.—A Return of the number of merchant vessels of all nations, distinguishing their respective flags, which cleared at the custom house of Canton during the year ending 31st of December, 1846, proceeding from or bound to, the port and places undermentioned, viz :—

ARRIVED.												DEPARTED.											
English.	American.	French.	Dutch.	Belgian.	Danish.	Swedish.	Hanseatic.	Prussian.	Total.	British.	American.	French.	Dutch.	Belgian.	Danish.	Swedish.	Hanseatic.	Prussian.	Total.	English.	American.	French.	Dutch.
12	1					1			30	61									61	28			
28									30	20									20				
										6									6				
		2							2	3									3				
									2		4								4				
				1					2		6								7				
									2														
							2		2							1			1				
									2							2	1		3				
									2	2								2					
72	2								73	39	2								41				
17	1								18	7	1								8				
2									2														
13									13														
1									1														
12	5			1	1	1			20	3	2			1		1			7				
	1		8					1	10		1		1						2				
3	3					2			8	1									1				
4	4								8	8	3		1	1		1			14				
	19								19		37					3			40				
	7								7		4								4				
	1								1		1								1				
1	4	1							6	1	1								2				
											1								1				
6									6	16									16				
1		1				1			3	1	1								2				
28									28	21	1								22				
1									1														
13	16					1	2		32	18	9					1	1		29				
214	64	4	8	1	1	6	5	1	304	207	65	4	8	1	1	6	4	1	296				
tons	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	tons	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"				
92,896	29,049	1,233	2,747	300	305	1,791	1,249	550	130,170	81,880	29,788	1,233	2,574	300	305	1,978	1,097	550	126,755				

NAMES OF PORTS AND PLACES.

a London, *b* Liverpool and Bristol, *c* Glasgow, Leith and the Clyde, *d* Dublin and Cork, *e* Havre and Bordeaux, *f* Amsterdam and Rotterdam, *g* Antwerp, *h* Stockholm, *i* Hamburgh, *j* Cape of Good Hope, *k* Bombay, *l* Calcutta, *m* Madras, *n* Tutocorin, *o* Siam, *p* Singapore and the Straits, *q* Batavia and Sourabaya, *r* Bali and Lombok, *s* Manila and the Philippines, *t* New York, *u* Boston and Baltimore, *v* Mazatlan and Mexico, *w* Callao and Lima, *x* Valparaiso, *y* Sydney, Port Philip, and Hobart Town, *z* Sandwich Islands, New Zealand, and Marquesas, *a* Hongkong, *b* Macao, *c* Amoy, Ningpo, and Shánghai.

Canton, 31st Dec. 1846.

FRANCIS C. MACGREGOR, *Consul*.

No III.—A Statement exhibiting the movement of British shipping in the trade with the port of Canton during the year 1846, distinguishing British and country ships; and shewing the number of tonnage of vessels at Whampoa on the 31st December.

	ARRIVALS.						DEPARTURES.					
	British.		Country.		Total.		British.		Country.		Total.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
London,	12	5,417	—	—	12	5,417	57	27,247	4	3,055	61	30,302
Liverpool,	28	10,633	—	—	28	19,633	19	6,902	—	—	19	6,902
Bristol,	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	421	—	—	1	521
Glasgow & Leith	}	—	—	—	—	—	6	2,264	—	—	6	2,264
Dublin & Cork,												
Bombay,	44	20,884	28	24,014	72	44,898	6	2,340	33	21,125	39	23,465
Calcutta,	4	1,958	13	5,176	17	7,134	—	—	7	3,202	7	3,202
Madras,	2	751	—	—	2	751	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tutocorin,	11	5,205	2	878	14	6,083	—	—	—	—	—	—
Singapore,	8	2,961	4	945	13	3,906	—	—	3	432	3	432
Siam,	1	320	—	—	—	320	—	—	—	—	—	—
Manila,	2	688	2	436	4	1,124	7	3,042	1	530	8	3,572
Lombok,	3	1,116	—	—	3	1,116	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bali,	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	400	—	—	1	400
Australia,	2	785	4	518	6	1,303	7	2,146	1	1,734	16	3,878
New Zealand	1	325	—	—	1	325	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sandwich Is.	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	150	—	—	1	150
C. G. Hope,	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	327	—	—	2	337
Lima,	1	176	—	—	1	176	—	—	—	—	—	—
Calao,	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	816	—	—	1	315
Victoria,	10	3,418	18	3,028	28	6,446	5	1,631	16	5,376	21	6,997
Macao,	1	293	—	—	1	293	—	—	—	—	—	—
Amoy,	1	589	3	929	4	1,518	5	2,192	4	850	9	2,952
Shanghai,	6	1,047	3	406	9	1,453	7	1,889	2	338	9	2,227
Total,	137	56,566	77	36,330	214	92,896	128	52,240	79	36,640	207	88,880

SUMMARY

<i>Entered</i>			British	12 Vessels,	3,374 tons
British	137 Vessels,	56,566 tons	Country	20 "	3,585 "
Country	77 "	36,330 "	Total	32 "	6,959 "
Total	214 "	92,896 "	<i>And cleared in Ballast.</i>		
<i>Cleared.</i>			British	15 Vessels,	5,919 tons
British	128 Vessels,	52,240 tons	Country	17 "	4,587 "
Country	79 "	36,640 "	Total	32 "	10,506 "
Total	207 "	88,880 "	<i>At Whampoa on 31st December.</i>		
<i>Of which number entered in Ballast.</i>			British	11 Vessels,	5,463 tons

No. IV.—A return of the quantities and value of merchandise imported into the port of Canton, in 182 British vessels of 85,937 tons, and 100 Hongkong Lorchas of 5,510 tons burthen, from the countries and places undermentioned, during the year ending the 31st December, 1846, viz:—

<i>No. in the tariff.</i>	<i>Denomination of articles.</i>	<i>Quantities.</i>	<i>Estimated value in Spanish Dollars.</i>
1.	British manufactures and staple articles.		
47	1.— <i>Manufactures of wool.</i>		
	Broad cloth, Spanish Stripes Habit and Medium cloth,	Changs 113,936	684,661

	Narrow Woollens, not described,	"	305,603	406,723
	Long Ells, - - - - -	"	81,978	109,567
	Camlets, - - - - -	"	71,013	122,452
	Bombazets, - - - - -	"	20,910	31,560
	Buntings, - - - - -	"	5,723	8,025
	Blankets, - - - - -	"	5,297	15,960
	Woollens, not enumerated, -	Value	\$7,586	7,586
13	2.— <i>Manufactures of Cotton.</i>			
	Long cloth, white, - - -	Pieces	102,631	280,243
	Do. grey and twilled, -	"	588,735	1,554,285
	Cambries and Muslins, -	"	550	1,520
	Chintzes and Prints, - -	"	14,219	42,750
	Handkerchiefs, - - - -	Dozens	8,672	17,549
	Gingham, Pulicates, dyed Cottons, } Velvets, Velvetens, Silk and } Cotton Mixtures, Woollen and } Cotton Mixtures, and all kinds of } Fancy goods, - - - - - }	Pieces	16,911	65,940
14	Cotton Yarn and Thread, -	Peculs	23,941	792,876
	4.— <i>Miscellaneous Articles, raw and manufactured.</i>			
8	Including Clocks and Watches, Telescopes, Writing desks, and Dressing cases, Hardware, Ironmongery and Cutlery, Perfumery, &c., - - - - - }	Value	\$20,786	20,786
	Earthenware of all kinds, -	Value	\$1,256	1,256
19	Flints, - - - - -	Peculs	6,690	2,425
20	Glass and Glassware, - -	Value	\$5,965	5,965
30	Iron in Bars, Rods, Hoops &c.,	Peculs	10,898	39,156
	Steel, raw - - - - -	"	299	1,382
	Lead, pig, - - - - -	"	730	3,572
	Tin plates, - - - - -	Boxes	2,258	13,272
40	Smalts, - - - - -	Peculs	115	5,171
45	Wine, Beer, and Spirits, -	Value	\$8,300	8,300
	II. Productions of India and other countries.			\$4,212,982
3	Betel-nut, - - - - -	Peculs	13,911	42,124
4	Bicho de Mar, - - - - -	"	165	5,215
5	Birds' nests edible, - - -	Catties	89	2,253
12	Cotton, viz,—			
	Bombay, - - - - - 425,496 }			
	Bengal, - - - - - 43,642 }			
	Madras, - - - - - 70,915 }	Peculs	545,438	4,925,012
	Miscellaneous, - - - - - 5,385 }			
15	Cow Bezoar, - - - - -	Catties	52	482
17	Elephants' teeth, - - - -	"	13,194	12,965
18	Fishmaws, - - - - -	Pecul	1,365	53,425
22	Ginseng, - - - - -	"		
24	Gum Olibanum, - - - - -	"	2,529	14,212
	" not further described, -	"	5,178	20,745
25	Horns, Buffalo, and Bullock, -	"	113	2,640
	" Unicorn and Rhinoceros, -	"	10	484
29	Mother o'Pearl shells, - -	"	156	1,220
30	Tin in Blocks, - - - - -	"		
32	Pepper, - - - - -	"	959	4,852
33	Putchuck, - - - - -	"	7,415	65,435
34	Rattans, - - - - -	"	7,352	25,648
35	Rice, - - - - -	"	28,715	49,228
36	Rose Maloes, - - - - -	Catties	5,297	2,480
37	Saltpetre, - - - - -	Peculs		

39	Shark fins.	- - - -	"	6,293	126,236
39	Skins and Furs. viz.—				
	Ox Hides, Land otter, - - -				
	Hare, Rabbit, Beaver, and Rac.		No.	12,998	25,837
	coon Skins, - - - -				
41	Soap, common, - - - -		Peculs	51	442
43	Sea Horse Teeth, - - - -		Catties	1,352	482
46	Wood, Sandal, - - - -		Peculs	15,637	157,831
	" Sapan. - - - -		"	1,565	2,937
III.	Miscellaneous Imports, and				
	Articles not enumerated in				
	the Tariff.				
	Including Agar agar, Alum, Agates,				
	Amber, Asafetida, Blacklead,				
	Blue Stone, Books, Canes, Carpets				
	Cloves, Coals, Cochineal, Coral				
	rough and Coral beads, Corks. Cud-				
	bear, Cornelian stones and beads,				
	Cutch, Furniture, Gambier, Glass				
	(broken). Goat skins, Gold and				
	Silver Thread, Guano, Nutmegs,				
	Paint. Paper and Stationery, Pearls				
	and Precious Stones, Provisions				
	and stores, raisins, Rosewood Snuff				
	timber, Tobacco, wearing apparel,				
	and a number of small articles				
	belonging to the Trade of India, }		Value	\$206,750	260,750

IV. Treasure, - - -	\$9,997,583
	216,800
Total of Imports in British Ships,	\$10,214,383

At the Exchange of 4s. 4d. per Dollar, £2,213,116, 6s. 4d.

Remarks.—The preceding Returns have been compiled from the entries in the Books kept at this Consulate, and the Quantities specified are those that have paid duty. The Weights and Measures stated are those in use at Canton. 1 Catty is equal to 1½ Pound Avoirdupois. and 100 Catties correspond with 133½ lbs. in England. One Chang is 4 English yards, nearly. The Value given has been computed upon the average prices of the year in the Canton market. The Spanish Dollars have been reduced to Sterling at 4s. 4d. the average exchange of the year.

No. V.—A return of the quantities and value of merchandise exported from the port of Canton, in 175 British vessels of the burthen of 78,374 tons, and in 58 Hongkong Lorchas of 3,456 tons, to the countries and places under-mentioned, during the year ending 31st December, 1846, viz ;—

I. Raw produce.

1	Alum, - - - -	Peculs	2,334	4,496
2	Aniseed, Star, - - - -	"	96	1,006
10	Canes, - - - -	Mille	135	1,590
12	Cassia Lignea, - - - -	Peculs	12,461	125,682
	Cassia Buds, - - - -	"	259	4,612
13	China Root, - - - -	"	165	465
28	Hartall, or Orpiment - - -	"	482	5,812
	Quicksilver, - - - -	"	306	37,244
45	Rhubarb, - - - -	"	850	36,208
46	Silk, raw, Nankin, - - 1,548			
	" Canton, - - 1,022	"	2,570	956,726
	" Coarse or refuse, - -	"	4,084	387,560
52	Sugar, raw, - - - -	"	177,814	1,416,237
55	Tea, viz,—			

	Congou, - - -	247,176			
	Souchong, - - -	7,032			
	Flowery Pekoe, - - -	4,092			
	Orange do., - - -	11,157			
	Caper, - - -	2,047			
	Miscellaneous, - - -	1,820			
	Hyson, - - -	3,042		306,980	11,112,627
	Do. Skin, - - -	102			
	Young Hyson, - - -	12,141			
	Imperial, - - -	3,162			
	Gunpowder, - - -	9,087			
	Twankay, - - -	6,122			
56	Tobacco, - - -			75	762
II. Manufactured Articles.					
4	Bangles, or Glass Armlets, - -		Boxes	69	4,497
5	Bamboo ware, - - -		Peculs	79	1,208
6	Brass leaf, - - -		Boxes	223	6,743
8	Bone and Horn ware, - - -		Catties	309	382
14	China ware, - - -		Peculs	2,541	49,743
	Crockery, common, - - -		Value	\$1,260	1,260
16	Copper, Tin, and Pewter ware, - -		Peculs	312	12,160
18	Crackers and Fireworks, - - -			692	4,725
20	Fans of all sorts, - - -		Catties	5,326	5,562
21	Furniture and Wood ware, - -		Peculs	397	7,940
24	Glass and Glass ware, - - -			365	7,378
25	Glass Beads, - - -		Boxes	1,548	30,967
27	Grass Cloth, - - -		Catties	2,873	6,381
29	Ivory, Mother o' Pearl, Sandal } Wood, and Tortoise shell ware, }			937	4,724
30	Kittysols, - - -		Boxes	7246	14,308
31	Lacquered ware, - - -		Peculs	279	11,653
35	Mats and Matting, - - -			3,652	25,632
38	Nankeens and Cotton Cloth, - -			214	10,956
2	Oil of Aniseed, - - -			120	16,542
12	" Cassia, - - -			110	26,460
41	Paper of all sorts, - - -			2,452	32,762
43	Preserves, - - -			6,824	27,926
44	Rattan work, - - -			249	5,930
46	Silk thread and Ribbons, - -		Catties	7,922	39,736
	Silk manufactures, - - -			51,727	293,653
47	Silk and Cotton mixtures - - -			37,382	93,112
50	Soy, - - -		Peculs	408	4,120
53	Sugar Candy, - - -			38,584	306,742
59	Trunks of Leather, - - -		Nests	356	7,836
61	Vermilion, - - -		Boxes	792	40,822

III. Miscellaneous Exports, and articles not enumerated in the Tariff.

Including Arsenic, Bees' Wax, }

Camphor, Capoor Cutchery,
Curiosities and Fancy Articles,
Drums, Ready-made Clothes,
Dragon's Blood, Artificial Flowers,
Hats and Caps, Gluë,
Galangal-root, Incense Sticks,
China Indigo, Galls, Gambôge,
Hemp, China Ink, Lanterns,
Lamps, Lamp-Oil, Lead white
and red, Mace, Marble Slabs,
Mirrors, Musk, Oil Paintings,
Pictures on Rice Paper, Pearls
factitious, Women's Shoes Sil-
versmith's work, Smalts, Tinfoil
Turmeric, Silk, Umbrellas, &c. }

Value \$186,760 186,760

Total of Exports in British Ships,

\$15,378,560

At the Exchange of 4s. 4d. per Dollar, £3,332 021 6s. 8d.

Remarks. The preceding returns have been compiled from the entries in the Books kept at this office, and the quantities specified are those that have paid duty. The Weights and Measures stated are those in use at Canton. One Catty is equal to $1\frac{1}{2}$ pound avoirdupois, and 100 Catties correspond with 133 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. in England. One Chang is 4 English yards, nearly. The Value given has in most instances been computed upon the average prices of the year in the Canton market, and where this has been found impracticable, an approximate estimate has been substituted. The reduction of the Spanish Dollars into Sterling has been at the average Exchange of 4s. 4d. per Dollar.

ART. VII. *Journal of Occurrences; the communications from Honán; the hon. A. H. Everett located in Canton; the house of Mr. Roberts plundered; Mr. Fearon appointed professor of Chinese; a rioter killed; purchase of Hog Lane; Chinese proclamation.*

EXCEPTING the correspondence concerning the site in Honán which has awakened some interest during the month past, but little has occurred particularly worthy of notice. The agitation and difficulties that have made the spring of 1847, a somewhat memorable one in the history of foreign intercourse with China appear to have entirely subsided, and though the confidence which has been wont to subsist between the native and foreign communities has been partially impaired and trade has been somewhat interrupted, the general tone of public feeling and conduct appears to be in some respects considerably improved. The old maxim of "ruling the barbarians by letting them alone" is falling greatly into desuetude, and the sounder principle that honesty and straight-forwardness are the only safe policy, is forcing itself at last even upon the attention of the Chinese. The tone of their recent communications is peculiarly observable, and it is hoped will mark the beginning of a new era in their intercourse with foreigners. The temperate and judicious policy of the British authorities we think also is not unworthy of commendation.

His excellency the hon. A. H. Everett arrived at Canton from Macao on the 8th inst. and is residing at the house of the Rev. Dr. Parker.

On the 23d of May last, the house of the Rev. I. J. Roberts situated on the river about a mile below the foreign factories was entered by a ruthless gang of Chinese who rifled it completely of its contents, not sparing even the walls and ceiling of the house itself. A representation of the matter has been made to Kiying, who has succeeded in arresting some of the individuals concerned in the affair, and restoring the greater part of the property. It is hoped that such outrages will not be often repeated, or that the aggressors will be made to suffer a more condign punishment than seems in the present instance to have been inflicted.

Mr. Samuel Fearon, formerly Registrar general of Hongkong, has been lately appointed a professor of the Chinese language and literature in King's College, England. His inaugural address was delivered on the 20th of April.

In the dispersion of the mob engaged in the recent attack upon the new boat house by a few British soldiers one of the Chinese is reported to have been killed and several others severely wounded.

During the month a purchase has been effected by the British consul of the south end of Hog Lane. A part of the ground thus obtained it is expected will be made the site of a new church.

A proclamation appeared on the 22d inst. addressed to the various classes of the native community admonishing them against acts of incivility in their treatment of foreigners and inculcating a kind and courteous intercourse.



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